

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

### **NOTICE 2004-KSC-03**

#### **National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Construct New Replacement Fire Station Number 2 at the Shuttle Landing Facility, Florida**

**AGENCIES: Lead:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**ACTION:** Construct New Fire Station Number 2 at the Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF)

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as Amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA's Procedural Provisions of NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the construction of a new Fire Station Number 2 at the SLF.

**DATE:** Published on November 19, 2004.  
Deadline for comments January 3, 2005.

**ADDRESS:** Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Mario Busacca; Environmental Program Office, Mail Code TA-C3, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899; telephone: 321-867-8456; fax: 321-867-8040; e-mail: mario.busacca-1@nasa.gov. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review at the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center and the Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, Merritt Island, Port St. John and Titusville Public Libraries.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The EA prepared for this proposed project addresses the proposed action to construct a new fire station at the SLF. This proposed facility would consolidate the existing Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) area fire station and the fire department vehicle storage building at the SLF near the midfield runway viewing area into one, state-of-the-art, fire and rescue facility capable of responding to both the VAB area and SLF in a timelier manner.

One alternative, plus a third no-action alternative, was evaluated to determine the extent of impacts to the environment at Kennedy Space Center (KSC). The two alternatives evaluated included constructing the fire station at a site near the SLF midfield viewing area as well as the no-action alternative, which left the existing fire and rescue operations at the VAB Fire Station.

The EA described those portions of the KSC environment that relate to each of the alternatives. Issues identified and addressed were facilities and infrastructure, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, noise, surface water, socioeconomics, and air quality.

The results of the analyses performed as a result of the EA indicate that the environmental issues associated with construction of the new fire station would be minimal impacts to facilities,

infrastructure, air quality, threatened and endangered species, and noise at the proposed action site. These impacts would be due to construction of the facility, routine operations, as well as emergency response operations.

Minimal impacts to facilities and infrastructure would be due to construction of the facility and the required utilities connections. Impacts to air quality would be short-term, localized impacts from routine vehicle operations. There would be minimal impacts to threatened and endangered species due to habitat removal, and minimal and short-term noise impacts would be generated during emergency response scenarios. No impacts would be expected to land use at the proposed action location as the land use is currently disturbed within the fenced area used for airport operations areas. Minimal impacts are expected to the adjacent surface waters from stormwater runoff; however, the surface waters adjacent to the site are within a permitted stormwater management system. No impacts would be expected to cultural resources or groundwater.

Similar impacts to those resulting from the proposed action would be expected to occur for the other alternatives assessed.

Federal agency activities that affect Florida's coastal zone are required by Section 37 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. Section 1456(c), and implementing regulations 15 CFR Part 930 to be consistent with Florida's Coastal Management Program (FCMP). Under Florida's Statutes (Chapter 380.23), only those Federal activities that significantly affect Florida's Coastal Zone will be evaluated for consistency with the FCMP. Since this proposed action is not expected to have any significant offsite effects, it has been judged to be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program. The same condition is expected for the other construction alternatives assessed.

On the basis of the analyses performed as part of the EA and reference material used in the investigation, NASA has concluded that implementation of the proposed action would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the environment. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. NASA will take no final actions or authorize construction activities prior to 30 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability of this FONSI.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
James W. Kennedy  
Director  
John F. Kennedy Space Center  
Kennedy Space Center, Florida

\_\_\_\_\_ November 3, 2004 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date