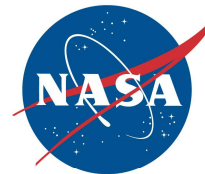


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



May 22, 2024

Reply to Attn of: AS01

TO: DA01/Joseph J. Pelfrey

FROM: AS10/Elbert F. Davis

SUBJECT: NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (*United States Code* Title 42, Sections 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (*Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] Title 40, Parts 1500 through 1508), and NASA's NEPA policy and procedures (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has issued this FONSI with respect to its proposed implementation of continuing and future mission support activities at MSFC in Huntsville, Alabama. NASA is the lead federal agency for this action. NASA has prepared this Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (EA) for MSFC. The purpose of this notice is to inform NASA decision makers, regulating agencies, and the public of the decision made for the EA.

DATES:

Effective date is the date of signature.

ADDRESSES:

The Final EA, which serves as the basis for this FONSI, may be viewed at NASA NEPA Public Reviews webpage (<https://nasa.gov/news-release/site-wide-environmental-assessment-for-marshall-space-flight-center-alabama/>) and NASA's NEPA repository

(https://netpublic.grc.nasa.gov/EA_EIS_Documents.cfm?key=MSFC).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Hannah McCarty, Center NEPA Manager, Marshall Space Flight Center, Building 4249/Mail Code AS10, Huntsville, AL 35812 or send email to hannah.k.mccarty@nasa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Involvement

NASA solicited public review and comment on the Draft EA during a 30-day public comment

period through the following methods:

1. Publishing Notices of Availability of the Draft EA in the *Huntsville Times* newspaper.
2. Making the Draft EA available for review at two public libraries:
 - a. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe Street SW, Huntsville, AL 35801
 - b. Madison Public Library, 142 Plaza Boulevard, Madison, AL 35758
3. Publishing the Draft EA on the [NASA NEPA Public Reviews webpage](https://nasa.gov/news-release/site-wide-environmental-assessment-for-marshall-space-flight-center-alabama/) (<https://nasa.gov/news-release/site-wide-environmental-assessment-for-marshall-space-flight-center-alabama/>.)
4. Having hard copies of the Draft EA available upon request by emailing msfcenvironmental@mail.nasa.gov.

No public or agency comments were received during the 30-day public review of the Draft EA. The Final EA is available on the [NASA NEPA Public Reviews webpage](https://nasa.gov/news-release/site-wide-environmental-assessment-for-marshall-space-flightcenter-alabama/) (<https://nasa.gov/news-release/site-wide-environmental-assessment-for-marshall-space-flightcenter-alabama/>) and in hard copy upon request by emailing msfcenvironmental@mail.nasa.gov.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to continue to enable MSFC to meet NASA's goals by maintaining and increasing MSFC's ability to support the following core capabilities: propulsion; materials and manufacturing; space transportation systems; space systems; and scientific research. The Proposed Action will drive MSFC's programs and objectives, which in turn drive its facilities and infrastructure. The Proposed Action is needed to ensure that MSFC remains critical to the future of NASA and space exploration. In meeting this need, MSFC will remain a mission-focused solutions provider, establish and increase commercial partnerships to meet NASA's mission needs, and efficiently provide the facilities, tools, and services required to support NASA's Strategic Goals.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action covers MSFC's current and future site-wide operations. Activities at MSFC include operational missions and activities, which are program- and project-driven and can change between years as missions evolve, and routine recurring actions, which support facility operations. Many of the activities at MSFC have already been evaluated in previous NEPA analyses or would qualify for a categorical exclusion (CatEx) in accordance with 14 CFR Subpart 1216.304; these activities are included in Appendix C of the EA. This EA analyzed the following actions that do not qualify for a CatEx or have previous NEPA coverage: use of Common Booster

Segment Solid Fuel Propellant for propulsion testing; activities associated with habitation systems; and real property projects, including the construction of the Marshall Exploration Facility, Engineering and Sciences Laboratory, and Pistol Range expansion, the installation of a 5,500-gallon liquid hydrogen tank, the construction and demolition associated with investment and divestment assets at MSFC, and the use of development sites.

Alternatives

In addition to the Proposed Action, NASA considered the implementation of a No Action Alternative. However, the No Action Alternative does not satisfy the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, as it would result in the inability to modify operations and real property as 3 new mission needs arise and would also add additional regulatory and financial burden because NASA would need to support additional NEPA analysis. The No Action Alternative would also not be environmentally preferable because it may cause potential damage to the physical environment by allowing real property assets to degrade. The No Action Alternative would not protect, preserve, or enhance MSFC natural resources. Therefore, NASA did not select this alternative.

Environmental Impacts and Conclusion

The EA evaluated the potential environmental effects associated with air quality; climate change and greenhouse gases; land use; water resources; biological resources; geology and soils; noise; traffic and transportation; socioeconomics; children's environmental health and safety; environmental justice and equity; hazardous materials and wastes, solid waste, and pollution prevention; public and occupational health and safety; utilities and infrastructure; cultural resources; and airspace. The EA concludes that the potential effects on these resources would be less than significant. NASA has reviewed the Final EA and has concluded that the Final EA represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. NASA hereby incorporates the Final EA by reference in this FONSI. Based on the Final EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action would not individually or cumulatively have an effect on the quality of the natural or human environment. Therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Joseph Pelfrey Digitally signed by Joseph Pelfrey
Date: 2024.05.22 13:45:53 -05'00'

Joseph J. Pelfrey
Director
NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

AS01/adixon:wbs:5/21/2024/544-3096