

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Immigration and Naturalization Service****Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request**

ACTION: Extension of existing collection, Application for temporary protected status.

The Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has submitted an emergency information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 to provide for the required final 30 days for public review/comment and ample time for OMB's review and final action.

This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on August 4, 1997 at 62 FR 41978, allowing for an emergency extension with a 60-day public comment period. No comments were received by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for an additional "thirty days" until December 3, 1997.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Ms. Debra Bond, 202-395-7316, Department of Justice Desk Officer, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503. Additionally, comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to 202-395-6974.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Richard A. Sloan, 202-514-3291, Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, 425 I Street, NW., Room 5307, Washington, DC 20536.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points.

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Overview of This Information
Collection**

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of currently approved information collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Application for Temporary Protected Status.

(3) *Agency from number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form I-821. Adjudications Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Individuals or Households. The information provided on this collection will be used by the INS to determine whether an applicant for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) meets the eligibility requirements. Such TPS benefits include employment authorization and relief from the threat of removal or deportation from the U.S. while in such status.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 10,000 respondents at 30 minutes (.5) hours per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 5,000 annual burden hours.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: October 28, 1997.

Robert B. Briggs,
*Department Clearance Officer, United States
Department of Justice.*

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**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[Notice (97-160)]

**National Environmental Policy Act;
Earth Observing System Program**

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed Earth Observing System (EOS) Program, which would involve a series of Earth orbiting spacecraft to be launched over the time period of 1998 through 2014 from Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California.

DATES: Comments on the FONSI must be provided in writing to NASA on or before December 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Richard T. Beck, Deputy Director (Resources), Mission to Planet Earth Office, Code 170, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20711. The Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) prepared for the Earth Observing System Program which supports this FONSI may be reviewed at the following locations:

(a) NASA Headquarters, Library, Room 1J20, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20546.

(b) VAFB, Technical Library, Building 7015, 806 13th Street, Vandenberg AFB, CA 39437.

(c) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818-354-5179).

(d) Spaceport USA, Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida, 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407-867-2497 so that arrangements can be made.

The PEA may also be examined at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office:

(e) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (650-604-4190).

(f) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA 93523 (805-258-3448).

(g) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301-286-0730).

(h) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281-483-8612).

(i) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665 (757-864-2497).

(j) NASA, Lewis Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Rd, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216-433-2222).

(k) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812 (205-544-0031).

(l) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (601-688-2164).

A limited number of copies of the PEA are available by contacting Mr. Richard T. Beck at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard T. Beck, 301-286-6613.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the PEA prepared for the EOS Program and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The PEA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

NASA is proposing to develop, build and launch a series of investigative spacecraft designed to provide global science data from a low-altitude, Sun-synchronous orbit over the time period of 1998 through 2014 from VAFB, California. EOS investigations would study the atmosphere, oceans, biosphere, land surface, and solid Earth systems. Spacecraft final assembly, propellant loading and checkout of payload systems would be performed in Payload Processing Facilities at VAFB. The spacecraft would then be transported to a Space Launch Complex at VAFB where it would be integrated with the launch vehicle. Due to varying payload weights and orbital requirements, Earth Observing System (EOS) spacecraft would require different launch vehicles. The launch vehicle selected as an environmental "bounding case" is the Delta II 7925.

The EROS Flight and Science projects focus on defining the state of the Earth system, understanding its basic processes, and developing and applying predictive models of these processes. All EROS instrument payloads are designed to measure physical Earth system phenomena from which specific data products can be derived. This effort would consist of both focused, disciplinary research centered around a specific data set and interdisciplinary research geared toward a broader exploration of systemic functions. Collecting data from the vantage point of space would provide information

about Earth's land, atmosphere, oceans, ice and biota that is obtainable in no other way. In concert with the global research community, the EOS Program would spearhead the development of scientific knowledge required to support the complex national and international environmental policy decisions that lie ahead.

Alternative to the proposed action that were considered included those that: (1) utilize an alternate launch vehicle, (2) utilize an alternate launch site, or (3) cancel the Earth Observing System Program (the "no action" alternative). Failure to undertake the EOS Program would impede scientific progress toward understanding the natural environment and its response to human activity and would cause more U.S. dependence on foreign acquisition of these data. The resultant loss of continuity in Earth observation data acquisition could lead to not meeting national priorities with respect to management of the environmental global commons and may result in ineffective policy decisions with respect to managing the global commons. Of the launch vehicles evaluated, U.S. launch vehicles proposed for launch of EOS spacecraft (specifically the Atlas IIAS, Delta II 7925, Medium-Lite Expendable Launch Vehicles and the Pegasus) are best suited for the EOS Program for the following reasons: (1) the alternative launch vehicles examined are approximately equal in their potential impact to the environment, and these impacts are not substantial; (2) U.S. launch vehicles proposed closely match EOS performance requirements and allow for variations in payload size and weight; and (3) selected launch vehicles cost the same or less than the examined alternatives and are similar in terms of reliability. Of the launch sites evaluated, VAFB is best suited for the EOS Program for the following reasons: (1) the majority of EOS spacecraft would be launched to polar orbits, which require an orbital inclination greater than the maximum allowable inclination for Cape Canaveral Air Station launches; and (2) available information in the detail necessary to make a judgment as to environmental impact and differences in philosophy with regard to overflight of land for acceptable launch trajectory and debris risk is unavailable for foreign launch sites.

Expected impacts to the human environment associated with the program are bounded by and arise almost entirely from the normal launch of the Delta II 7925. Air emissions from the exhaust produced by the solid propellant graphite epoxy motors and liquid first stage primarily include

carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, aluminum oxide in soluble and insoluble forms, carbon dioxide, and deluge water mixed with propellant by-products. Air impacts would be short-term and not substantial. Short-term water quality and noise impacts, as well as short-term effects on plants, and animals, would occur only in the vicinity of the launch complex. There would be no impact on threatened or endangered species of critical habitat, cultural resources, wetlands or floodplains. The EOS Program would follow the NASA guidelines regarding orbital debris and minimizing the risk of uncontrolled reentry into the Earth's atmosphere. Accident scenarios have also been addressed. None of the EOS Program missions will have radioactive materials aboard the spacecraft, except for the possibility of minute quantities on certain missions for instrumentation purposes. Consequently, no adverse impacts from radioactive substances are anticipated. No other individual or cumulative impacts of environmental concern have been identified.

The level and scope of environmental impacts associated with the launch of EOS spacecraft are well within the envelope of impact that have been addressed in previous FONSI's concerning other launch vehicles and spacecraft. EOS spacecraft would not increase launch rates nor utilize launch systems beyond the scope of approved programs at VAFB. No EOS-specific processing or launch activities have been identified that would require new permits and/or mitigation measures beyond those currently in place or in coordination at VAFB. No significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns associated with the launch vehicle have been identified which would affect the earlier findings. As specific spacecraft and missions are fully defined, they will be reviewed in light of the PEA. If any fall outside of the scope of the PEA, further NEPA review will be conducted, as necessary.

On the basis of the EOS, PEA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the program would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. NASA will take no final action prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.

William F. Townsend,

Acting Associate Administrator for Mission to Planet Earth.

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