

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (97-111)]

National Environmental Policy Act; Advanced Space Transportation Program

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Engine Technology Support for NASA's Advanced Space Transportation Program.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 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 policy and procedures (14 CFR part 1216, subpart 1216.3), NASA has prepared and issued a FEIS for the Engine Technology Support of NASA's Advanced Space Transportation Program. The proposed action by NASA is to test new and advanced engines, components, and to modify facilities to support the programmatic development of future launch vehicles. NASA is considering a wide variety of liquid-fueled engines to accommodate the propulsion requirements of new space vehicle(s). The primary sites being evaluated for the testing activities are NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, Alabama, and John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) in Hancock, Mississippi. In addition, Edwards Air Force Base near Lancaster County, California, is also being considered as a potential test site.

DATES: NASA will take no final action on the proposed testing of new and advanced engines, components, and modification of facilities for the Engine Technology Support for NASA's Advanced Space Transportation Program before September 22, 1997, or 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the Engine Technology Support for NASA's Advanced Space Transportation Program FEIS, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: The FEIS may be reviewed at the following locations:

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

(b) Spaceport U.S.A., Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407-867-2497 so that arrangements can be made.

(c) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (828-354-5179).

(d) Huntsville Library, 915 Monroe Street, SW, Huntsville, AL 35801.

(e) Huntsville Library, Madison Branch, 181, Hughes Road, Suite 6, Madison, AL 35758.

(f) Triana Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Triana, AL 35758.

(g) Hancock County Library, 312, Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520.

(h) Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library, 900 Goodyear Boulevard, Picayune, MS 39466

(i) St. Tammany Parish Library, 555 Robert Avenue, Slidell, LA 70458

(j) Palmdale City Library, 700 East Palmdale Boulevard, Palmdale, California 93550

In addition, the FEIS may be examined at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office:

(d) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (415-604-4190).

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

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

(g) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (713-483-8612).

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

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

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

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

Limited copies of the FEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting Dr. Rebecca McCaleb, Director, Environmental Engineering and Management Office, Code AE01, Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama at the address or telephone number indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Rebecca McCaleb, Director, Environmental Engineering and Management Office, Code AE01, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812; telephone 205-544-4367; or Mr. Ron Magee, Environmental Officer, Code GAOO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529; telephone 601-688-7384.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To meet the technical and programmatic challenges of developing a new space vehicle(s), key advanced technologies in propulsion systems need to be explored.

The activities would be designed to demonstrate the technology maturity levels necessary to reduce the development risk of the selected propulsion system(s) to an acceptable level and to produce a highly operable, high thrust-to-weight propulsion system(s). Therefore, NASA is proposing to develop and test liquid engines and components that could be used in the final configuration(s) of a new space vehicle(s). Engines under consideration would use liquid oxygen as the oxidizer. The fuel would be liquid hydrogen, kerosene, or a combination of the two. NASA's preferred alternative is to primarily conduct the propulsion testing at SSC with some engine system component testing at MSFC.

The reasonable alternative under consideration for testing these engines include, but are not limited to, those located at MSFC and SSC. Existing test facilities at these two NASA Centers may need to be upgraded to accommodate objectives. Modifications may include addition of a kerosene tank on the test stand(s), a common structural and functional interface, and an engine mounting adapter. Many aspects of the program would be similar to test activities of propulsion undertaken in the 1960's associated with the Apollo program.

All test facilities at MSFC are located in the southern portion of the Center and in the center of Redstone Arsenal's 15,400 hectares (38,000 acres). The closest private property is approximately 4 kilometers (2.4 miles) from the proposed MSFC test facilities. SSC occupies 5,585 hectares (13,800 acres) and is surrounded by 50,616 hectares (125,071 acres) of acoustical buffer zone primarily in western Hancock County, Mississippi and eastern St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

Alternatives for this proposal include, but are not necessarily limited to: (1) Alternative test sites; (2) test facility construction and modification options; (3) fuels, engines and components; (4) disapproval of the proposed activities ("no action").

The FEIS considers potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed testing activities and any needed construction or modification of facilities. The areas of potential environmental concern include primarily impact on air quality and from noise. However, analyses indicate that air quality will remain within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards at both MSFC and SSC. If MSFC and or SSC were selected, no substantial environmental impact is anticipated on biological resources, threatened and

endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands, or recreational or scenic areas. No facilities would be constructed within the 100 year flood plain.

Comments on the draft environmental impact statement were solicited from Federal, State and local agencies, organizations, and members of the general public through: (a) Notices published in the **Federal Register**—NASA notice on November 14, 1996 (61 FR 58426), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notice on November 15, 1996 (61 FR 58548). Comments received have been addressed in the FEIS.

Benita A. Cooper,

Associate Administrator for Management Systems and Facilities.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 97-115]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness, Task Force on Shuttle-Mir Rendezvous and Docking Missions; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NAC Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness and Task Force on Shuttle-Mir Rendezvous and Docking Missions.

DATES: September 24, 1997, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Room 7W31, 300 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20546-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dennis McSweeney, Code IH, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546-0001, 202/358-4556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Review the readiness of the STS-86 Shuttle-Mir Rendezvous and Docking Mission;
- Review of Task Force Fact-Finding meeting held in Denver, Colorado, July 23-24, 1997;

—Review of Task Force Fact-Finding meeting held in Houston, Texas, August 25, 1997;

—Review of joint meeting with Russia's Advisory Expert Council, September 15-19, 1997, Moscow, Russia.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitors register.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Leslie M. Nolan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-22080 Filed 8-20-97; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 97-118]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee (ASTTAC); Propulsion Systems Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a NAC, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Propulsion System Subcommittee meeting.

DATES: September 15, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., September 16, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., and September 17, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lewis Research Center, Building 3, Room 215, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carol J. Russo, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lewis Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135, 216/433-2965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- NASA Aeronautics Program Overviews
- NASA Lewis Aeropropulsion Overview
- Propulsion Systems Research Program Reviews
- Review of Aeroacoustics and Emissions Work
- Restructured Base Overview

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate

the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

Dated: August 13, 1997.

Leslie M. Nolan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-22098 Filed 8-20-97; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (97-121)]

NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Flight Research Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Flight Research Subcommittee meeting.

DATES: September 23, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and September 24, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Dryden Flight Research Center, Building 4800, Executive Council Room, Edwards, CA 93535.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Dwain A. Deets, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA 93523, 805/258-3136.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Agenda topics for the meeting are as follows:

- Overview of Restructured Program
- Review of Flight Research R&T Base Program
- Review of Flight Projects

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitors register.

Dated: August 13, 1997.

Leslie M. Nolan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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