

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Implementation of the Master Plan at NASA Langley Research Center

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center (LaRC)

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 Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 - 1508), NASA's regulations (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), and NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR) 8580.1A, "Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114," NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed implementation of the Master Plan at NASA LaRC, located in Hampton, Virginia. LaRC's Master Plan includes a 20-year revitalization strategy that expands and extends the New Town project work already underway and includes constructing new state-of-the-art facilities, renovating critical infrastructure, vacating and/or demolishing non-essential facilities, and performing other general infrastructure maintenance and improvement activities throughout the Center. The overarching goal of the Proposed Action is to sustain or enhance the Center's core capabilities, reduce the Center's footprint, and transform the remaining infrastructure to be energy efficient, sustainable, and adaptable to changing missions and societal needs. These goals are fundamental to ensuring that LaRC remains a critical research and development Center for NASA and the Nation well into the 21st Century.

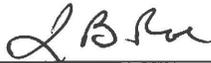
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the EA prepared for the proposed implementation of LaRC's Master Plan and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

The Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative were considered in the EA. Under the No-Action alternative, LaRC would not implement the revitalization activities associated with the Master Plan. The Center would continue to operate and maintain the buildings that are currently in use at the Center and many facilities would remain abandoned or underutilized. The No-Action alternative would not facilitate LaRC's goal of improving current and future mission performance capability. The No-Action alternative would forego the opportunity to streamline the Center's infrastructure and refocus limited resources on the infrastructure that would meet LaRC's mission requirements.

The EA addressed environmental impacts in the areas of Water Resources; Wetlands and Floodplains; Coastal Zone Management; Noise; Air Quality; Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change; Hazardous Materials and Waste; Pollution Prevention and Recycling; Biological Resources; Land Use; Economy and Employment; Transportation and Parking; Cultural Resources; and Health and Safety. With the exception of Cultural Resources, the adverse impacts of the Proposed Action on the identified resource areas would be minor and short-term. Implementation of the Proposed Action would have moderate long-term adverse impacts on LaRC's historic properties and the integrity of the Historic District. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, LaRC would minimize the impact by completing mitigation measures as prescribed in the Programmatic Agreement Among NASA, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Management of Facilities, Infrastructure and Sites at NASA LaRC.

On the basis of the information provided in the EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with this project will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human or natural environment. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is not required.



Lesa B. Roe
Director, NASA Langley Research Center

8/21/2013

Date