

have become members of SI2. Advanced Micro Devices; Seiko Instruments; Ikos Systems; CNET-Grenoble; CPQD Telebras; Earl F. Ecklund; Nikolay Vitsyn; and Carl Hage, are no longer members of SI2.

The purpose of SI2 has been amended to read as follows: "Provide collaborative technology and services which enable higher levels of semiconductor design integration leading to industry accepted standards."

On December 30, 1988, SI2 filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. That filing was amended on February 7, 1989. The Department of Justice published a notice concerning the amended filing in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on March 13, 1989 (54 FR 10456). A correction notice was published on April 20, 1989 (54 FR 16013).

The last notification was filed with the Department on May 1, 1997. A notice as published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on July 23, 1997 (62 FR 39549).

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (97-161)]

National Environmental Policy Act; Expansion of Launch Range Operations at Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact.

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 (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 expansion of launch range operations at Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Wallops Island, Virginia. NASA proposes to enhance national launch capabilities through improvements to infrastructure and the expansion of its launch range operations at WFF. The major elements of the proposed action include: (1) support of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight

Authority's establishment of a commercial launch site to operate from WFF under a Use Agreement with NASA (operation of this launch site would be licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)); (2) improvements to real property necessary to support the expansion of launch operations; (3) expansion of operations at WFF to accommodate an increase in orbital launch capability; and (4) restoration of the historical level and nature of suborbital operations on the WFF range. The improvements to infrastructure and the establishment of a licensed commercial launch site at WFF would increase the national capacity for the launch of commercial satellites, and provide additional capacity for all launch operations from Wallops Island.

The FAA has acted as a cooperating agency throughout the NEPA process.

DATE: Upon publication of this FONSI, NASA will proceed immediately to implement the proposed action.

ADDRESSES: The environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed expansion of launch range operations at WFF may be reviewed at the following locations:

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

(b) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Public Affairs Office, Wallops Island, Virginia 23337.

(c) Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomack, VA 23301.

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

(e) Spaceport U.S.A., Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407-867-2497.

In addition, the EA may be reviewed at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(m) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (601-688-2164). A limited number of copies of the EA are available, on a first request basis, by contacting the WFF Public Affairs Office at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Public Affairs Office, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA 23337; telephone 757-824-1579.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the EA prepared for the expansion of launch operations at WFF and determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. NASA hereby incorporates the EA by reference in this FONSI.

The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance national launch capabilities through improvements to infrastructure and the expansion of launch range operations at WFF. An FAA licensed commercial launch site at WFF would be established to promote this expansion of launch capabilities. The licensed commercial launch site is needed to further encourage, facilitate, and promote a competitive United States commercial launch industry.

The EA identifies potential impacts that may occur during implementation of the proposed actions. The EA addresses environmental impacts associated both with launch operations and construction of launch support facilities. The expansion of launch range operations would accommodate an increase in orbital launch capability, and a restoration of the historical level of suborbital launches conducted at the WFF launch range. The proposed annual orbital launch schedule for WFF is anticipated to be twelve per year, with environmental impacts associated with an individual launch less than or equivalent to launching a Lockheed-Martin Launch Vehicle-3 with eight strap-ons (LMLV-3). The proposed improvements to WFF's real property and infrastructure necessary to accomplish the proposed expansion include: (1) modifications to existing launch pad 0-A; (2) modifications to existing buildings for payload processing facilities; and (3) the construction of a new launch pad designated as pad 0-B. WFF's proposed launch range expansion would accommodate various solid and liquid (liquid oxygen-hydrogen, liquid oxygen-kerosene) rocket motor configurations.

Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that were considered included launch sites at: (1) Spaceport

Florida, located adjacent to Cape Canaveral Air Station on the east coast of Florida; (2) California Spaceport, located at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; (3) and Kodiak Launch Complex, near Kodiak, Alaska. Foreign launch sites, such as Russia, Japan, China, Canada, and India, are not considered reasonable alternative sites. NASA also considered the "no action" alternative.

Impacts to the human environment associated with the proposed action can be divided into short-term (construction phase) and long-term (operational phase) impacts. The construction phase would last approximately 12–15 months. The EA evaluated the environmental consequences of both the construction and operational phases including, but not limited to, air and water quality, noise, flora and fauna, threatened and endangered species, health and safety, solid and hazardous waste management, socioeconomic, land use, wetlands and floodplain management.

Overall impacts individually and cumulatively to the human environment are not anticipated to be substantial. Neither construction nor operational activities will have a substantial impact on air quality at WFF. The highly localized, short duration air emissions from rocket launches quickly dissipate and are well below exposure standards established to protect human health. Neither construction nor operational noise levels will differ substantially from current noise levels at WFF. During launch operations, the noise is maintained for only a few seconds, is of low frequency, attenuates rapidly, and occurs infrequently.

Construction activities will disturb some vegetation. Operational activities may include the searing of vegetation within approximately 200 to 300 meters (660 to 980 feet) of the combustion path. The proposed construction area is dominated by *Phragmites australis* (common reed) and no longer supports indigenous hydrophilic floral species. Construction activities will not disturb wildlife in the vicinity. Operational activities may include injury or death to fauna within 200 to 300 meters of the combustion path. Some temporary interruption of foraging and nesting activities within a 1,000 meter (3300 feet) radius of the launch pad for 2 to 10 minutes during launch operations may be expected. Construction activities will not disturb any federally or state listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. There are no known endangered species within a 1,000 meter (3300 foot) radius of the launch pad. However, a piping plover nesting

area is adjacent to this 1,000 meter zone. Pursuant to formal Section 7 consultation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a biological opinion that WFF's proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the piping plover. Monitoring the piping plover will take place during the first three launches from pad 0–B that take place during the nesting season.

Relatively small amounts of toxic substances may be needed for payload processing, and limited amounts of solid and hazardous wastes will be generated. No water quality or cultural resource impacts are anticipated, and there are no environmental justice concerns. The proposed action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Virginia coastal zone management program. The proposed construction will occur in a 100-year floodplain and will convert 1,280 square meters (approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ acre) of low quality wetlands to industrial use. There are no practicable alternatives which avoid the floodplain or conversion of the wetlands. Wetlands will be established or improved to compensate for the loss created by the project. There will be some positive socioeconomic benefit to the surrounding community through job creation and purchases of goods and services. There are no other issues of potential environmental concern.

NASA sought public and agency review and comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed action through: (1) a notice of availability of the Draft EA concerning expansion of launch range operations at WFF in the **Federal Register** on September 8, 1997 (62 FR 47223); (2) notice of availability of the Draft EA in local news media; (3) consultations with state and federal agencies; and (4) direct mailing of the Draft EA to interested parties. No environmental concerns were raised during the 30-day public comment on the Draft EA.

On the basis of the EA for the expansion of launch range operations at WFF and underlying reference documents, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

William F. Townsend,

Acting Associate Administrator for Mission to Planet Earth.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40–7580]

Consideration of License Amendment Request for the Fansteel, Inc., Facility in Muskogee, OK and an Opportunity for Hearing

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of consideration of license amendment request for the Fansteel, Inc., Facility in Muskogee, Oklahoma and an opportunity for hearing.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering amendment of Source Material License SMB–911, issued to Fansteel, Inc., for modification of the operation at its processing facility in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Fansteel is authorized to reprocess acid "Work-In-Progress (WIP)" residues, which were generated from previous operations at its facility, to extract tantalum, niobium and scandium. The WIP residues contain, by weight, more than 0.05 percent natural uranium and thorium, which are source materials and require an NRC license under 10 CFR Part 40. Fansteel has requested an amendment of its license to authorize processing of wastewater treatment residues concurrently with the WIP residues and to generate three additional products: calcium sulfate, sodium sulfate, and sodium fluoroaluminate.

Prior to approving the amendment application, NRC will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in a Safety Evaluation Report and an Environmental Assessment. The amendment of the license will be documented in the issuance of an amended SMB–911 license.

The NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for amendment of a license falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudication in Materials Licensing Proceedings," of NRC's rules and practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2. Pursuant to Section 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(d). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of the **Federal Register** Notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either: