

**Need and Uses:** The information is used by NASA legal and contracting offices to ensure disposition of inventions in accordance with statutes and to determine the Government's rights in data.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government, State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Number of Respondents:** 2,845.

**Responses Per Respondent:** 1.

**Annual Responses:** 3,557.

**Hours Per Request:** 8 hrs, 1/2 hr for negative response.

**Annual Burden Hours:** 10,884.

**Frequency of Report:** As discovered.

**Donald J. Andreotta**

*Deputy Chief Information Officer*

*(Operations), Office of the Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-8796 Filed 4-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-01-M

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (98-045)]

### National Environmental Policy Act; Mars Surveyor Program

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a Tier I environmental impact statement (EIS) and a Tier II EIS and conduct scoping for the Mars Surveyor 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's policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), NASA intends to prepare a Tier I EIS and a Tier II EIS for the Mars Surveyor Program. This program has been authorized by Congress to launch missions to Mars periodically as part of a long-term program of Mars exploration. The purposes of the Mars Surveyor Program are to (1) conduct additional scientific exploration of Mars, and (2) use the first Mars Sample Return (MSR) mission to return Martian samples collected earlier by either the Mars 2001 or Mars 2003 mission to Earth.

The Tier I EIS will serve as a programmatic EIS for the Mars Surveyor Program and as a mission-specific EIS for the proposed Mars 2001 and Mars 2003 missions. It will address the environmental impacts of the proposed Mars 2001 and Mars 2003 missions and give a preliminary overview of the proposed first MSR mission which is

planned for 2004. The Tier II EIS will provide further details of the MSR mission, including the potential environmental impacts of returning a sample of Martian surface materials and atmosphere to Earth.

The Mars 2001 and 2003 missions are currently proposed to launch from Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS), Florida. The Mars 2001 orbiter is scheduled for launch in February 2001. The lander and rover are scheduled for launch in April 2001. The Mars 2003 orbiter, lander, and rover are proposed for launch in May 2003. The first proposed MSR mission, including orbiter, lander and Earth reentry capsule, is scheduled for a single launch in November 2004. Environmental impacts to be considered are those impacts associated with a normal launch from CCAS, and the potential radiological and non-radiological risks of launch accidents. The Mars 2001 and 2003 missions may require the use of up to eight Radioisotope Heater Units (RHU's) for each mission, and minor quantities of Curium-242, Curium-244, and Cobalt-57 for scientific instrumentation. The MSR mission may require the use of up to thirty RHU's.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit comments or environmental concerns on or before May 18, 1998 to assure full consideration during the scoping process.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Mr. Mark R. Dahl, NASA Headquarters, Code SD, Washington, DC 20546-0001. While hard copy comments are preferred, comments by electronic mail may be sent to [marsscop@hq.nasa.gov](mailto:marsscop@hq.nasa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark R. Dahl, 202-358-1544; electronic mail ([marsscop@hq.nasa.gov](mailto:marsscop@hq.nasa.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The goal of the Mars Surveyor Program is to understand Mars in terms of life, climate and resources. The specific goals of the 2001, 2003, and MSR missions are to: Do a detailed exploration and characterization of selected areas of the Martian surface; characterize, collect, cache (store) and return samples of the Martian surface materials and atmosphere; map the global geochemical and mineralogical composition of Mars; acquire data on the radiation environment of Mars; demonstrate the viability of in-situ propellant production; and demonstrate aerocapture and precision landing capabilities.

In accordance with the Mars Robotic Exploration Plan, one or two spacecraft to Mars are proposed to be launched during the time period around each

orbital opportunity (approximately every twenty-six months). The missions could include the participation of scientists from the broad research community. The science community and industry would supply science instruments. These missions would be conducted in partnership with industry, and are to be executed within a specific funding profile. The Mars Surveyor Program would include the implementation of an education and outreach program. The 2001 and 2003 proposed mission plans, as defined at this time, include global observations from orbit and, from the surface, collections, storage and analysis of Martian soil and rock samples. The proposed MSR mission plan, as presently defined, includes returning to Earth for more extensive study that cache of samples from either the 2001 or 2003 caches, which is determined to be of most scientific interest. In order to ensure the maximum scientific payoff for the missions, the 2001 and 2003 landers would collect data for 100 days, and the rovers each would collect science data for about one Earth year. In order for the rovers and surface instruments to survive at the low Mars temperatures, RHU's are proposed for use on the rover and on the Mars In-situ Propellant Production instrument in 2001 and on the rover and possibly on instruments not yet selected on the 2003 lander. The landed elements of each of these missions may use up to eight RHU's. RHU's are also likely to be required for the larger MSR spacecraft, but the number and location of any RHU's are still to be determined. However, present planning suggests that the MSR mission may need to use up to thirty RHU's. Each RHU would contain approximately 2.7 grams (about 0.1 ounce) of plutonium dioxide.

NASA plans to address the environmental impacts of the Mars Surveyor Program through a two-tiered EIS process. The Tier I EIS will discuss the overall purpose and need for the Mars Surveyor Program. This EIS also will focus on the specific purpose and need for and the environmental impacts associated with the proposed Mars 2001 and 2003 missions, as well as alternatives to the proposals. Because of unavailable information, it is likely that the MSR mission will only be addressed in terms of a broad conceptual framework in the Tier I EIS. The Mars 2001 and 2003 missions would serve purposes and needs independent of whether or not the MSR is ultimately approved. The Record of Decision (ROD) issued pursuant to the Tier I EIS and other relevant information will

focus on the determination of whether or not to proceed with the proposed Mars 2001 and 2003 missions.

A decision on the MSR mission will be deferred until after the completion of the NEPA process associated with the Tier II EIS. NASA plans to focus the Tier II EIS on the purpose and need for the proposed MSR mission, other alternatives (both for launch and sample return to Earth), and the potential environmental impacts associated with the mission, including those related to the return of a Martian soil sample to Earth. Another notice of intent to prepare an EIS and conduct scoping will be issued at the initiation of the NEPA process for the Tier II EIS.

Alternatives to be considered in the Tier I EIS include but are not limited to:

- Alternative launch vehicles
- Alternative mission configurations for the Mars 2001 and 2003 missions
- Alternative launch sites
- Alternative means to maintain a spacecraft, lander, and rover environment which will permit extended operation of equipment and instruments
- Other means to meet the purpose and need
- The “no action” alternative which defines the baseline conditions that would prevail in the absence of the Mars Surveyor Program

The Tier I EIS will consider the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Mars 2001 and 2003 missions, and to the extent that information is available, the proposed MSR mission. Preliminary thinking on potential environmental impacts indicates that the Tier I EIS should focus on those associated with both the normal launches of the spacecraft and accident situations.

Written public input and comments on environmental impacts and concerns associated with the Mars Surveyor Program are hereby solicited.

**Jeffrey E. Sutton,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Management Systems and Facilities.*

[FR Doc. 98-8797 Filed 4-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

### Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress; Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. The committee advises NARA on the full range of programs, policies, and plans for the Center for Legislative Archives in the Office of Records Services.

**DATES:** April 29, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** United States Capitol Building, Room EF-100.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael L. Gillette, Director, Center for Legislative Archives, (202) 501-5350.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Agenda

L.C. Law Library/National Digital Library

Update—Legislative Information Systems

Report—Project 2000 Proposals—

Marking the 200th Anniversary of the Occupation of the US Capitol

Update—Center for Legislative Archives

Other current issues and new business

The meeting is open to the public.

Dated: March 27, 1998.

**Mary Ann Hadyka,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-8728 Filed 4-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

### Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Panel Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463 as amended) notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Panel of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities will be held at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506, in Room 714, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., on Monday, May 4, 1998.

The purpose of the meeting is to review applications for Certificates of Indemnity submitted to the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities for exhibitions beginning after July 1, 1998.

Because the proposed meeting will consider financial and commercial data and because it is important to keep values of objects, methods of transportation and security measures confidential, pursuant to the authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to Close Advisory Committee Meetings, dated

July 19, 1993, I have determined that the meeting would fall within exemptions (4) and (9) of 5 U.S.C. 552(b) and that it is essential to close the meeting to protect the free exchange of views and to avoid interference with the operations of the Committee.

It is suggested that those desiring more specific information contact the Advisory Committee Management Officer, Nancy E. Weiss, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506, or call 202/606-8322.

**Nancy E. Weiss,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-8726 Filed 4-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-M

## THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

### Meetings of Humanities Panel

**AGENCY:** The National Endowment for the Humanities.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, as amended), notice is hereby given that the following meetings of the Humanities Panel will be held at the Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy E. Weiss, Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506; telephone (202) 606-8322. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on (202) 606-8282.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed meetings are for the purpose of panel review, discussion, evaluation and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including discussion of information given in confidence to the agency by the grant applicants. Because the proposed meetings will consider information that is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential and/or information of a personal nature the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, pursuant to authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to