

4975(c)(1)(B) and (D) of the Code, shall not apply to the lending of money or other extension of credit from a party in interest or disqualified person to an employee benefit plan, nor to the repayment of such loan or other extension of credit in accordance with its terms or written modifications thereof, if:

(a) No interest or other fee is charged to the plan, and no discount for payment in cash is relinquished by the plan, in connection with the loan or extension of credit;

(b) The proceeds of the loan or extension of credit are used only:

(1) For the payment of ordinary operating expenses of the plan, including the payment of benefits in accordance with the terms of the plan and periodic premiums under an insurance or annuity contract; or

(2) For a period of no more than three days, for a purpose incidental to the ordinary operation of the plan;

(c) The loan or extension of credit is unsecured; and

(d) The loan or extension of credit is not directly or indirectly made by an employee benefit plan.

#### *Section II: Temporary Exemption*

Effective November 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000, the restrictions of section 406(a)(1)(B) and (D) and section 406(b)(2) of the Act, and the taxes imposed by section 4975(a) and (b) of the Code by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(B) and (D) of the Code, shall not apply to the lending of money or other extension of credit from a party in interest or disqualified person to an employee benefit plan, nor to the repayment of such loan or other extension of credit in accordance with its terms or written modifications thereof, if:

(a) No interest or other fee is charged to the plan, and no discount for payment in cash is relinquished by the plan, in connection with the loan or extension of credit;

(b) The proceeds of the loan or extension of credit are used only for a purpose incidental to the ordinary operation of the plan which arises in connection with the plan's inability to liquidate, or otherwise access its assets or data as a result of the Y2K problem.

(c) The loan or extension of credit is unsecured;

(d) The loan or extension of credit is not directly or indirectly made by an employee benefit plan;

(e) The loan or extension of credit begins on or after November 1, 1999 and is repaid or terminated no later than December 31, 2000.

#### *Section III: Definition*

For the purposes of section II, a Y2K problem is a disruption of computer operations resulting from a computer system's inability to process data because such system recognizes years only by the last two digits, causing a "00" entry to be read as the year "1900" rather than the year "2000."

Signed at Washington, DC, this 23rd day of November, 1999.

**Ivan L. Strasfeld,**

*Director of Exemption Determinations,  
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration,  
Department of Labor.*

[FR Doc. 99-30932 Filed 11-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-P

### LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

#### **Sunshine Act Meeting**

**TIME AND DATE:** The Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation will meet on November 29, 1999 via conference call. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m and continue until conclusion of the Board's agenda.

**LOCATION:** 750 First Street, NE, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, in Room 11026.

**STATUS OF MEETING:** Open.

#### **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. Approval of the agenda.
2. Consider and act on the Board of Directors' Semiannual Report to Congress for the period of April 1, 1999 to September 30, 1999.
3. Consider and act on a staff proposal to move funds from Grant Recoveries to Grants line in order to fund an emergency grant to Legal Services of North Carolina.
4. Consider and act on staff request to revise the Corporation's FY 2000 Consolidated Operating Budget to add to U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals line an additional \$15,000 received from the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals.
5. Consider and act on other business.

#### **CONTACT PERSON FOR INFORMATION:**

Victor M. Fortuno, Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, at (202) 336-8810.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** Upon request, meeting notices will be made available in alternate formats to accommodate visual and hearing impairments. Individuals who have a disability and need an accommodation to attend the meeting may notify Shannon Nicko Adaway, at (202) 336-8810.

Dated: November 24, 1999.

**Victor M. Fortuno,**

*Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-31066 Filed 11-24-99; 1:44 pm]

BILLING CODE 7050-01-P

### NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[NOTICE 99-147]

#### **National Environmental Policy Act; Mars Surveyor 2001 Mission**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for implementation of the Mars Surveyor 2001 (MS 01) mission.

**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 DEIS for the MS 01 mission. The DEIS addresses the potential environmental impacts associated with continuing the preparations for and implementing the MS 01 mission. The purpose of this proposal is to continue global reconnaissance of Mars and perform surface exploration.

The mission is planned to consist of two components. NASA proposes to launch an orbiter spacecraft from Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California in March-April 2001, and a lander/rover spacecraft from Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS), Florida in April 2001. The orbiter would be launched aboard a Delta II 7925, while the lander/rover would be launched aboard a Delta II 7425. The lander/rover would include four small radioactive sources for instrument calibration and would use three radioisotope heater units (RHU's) for thermal control. The orbiter would carry no radioactive material.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit comments or environmental concerns on or before January 13, 2000, or 45 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the MS 01 mission DEIS, whichever is later.

**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). The DEIS 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 (818-354-5179).

In addition, the DEIS 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 (650-604-4191).

(e) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, P.O. Box 273, Edwards, CA 93523 (661-258-3449).

(f) NASA, Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216-433-2755).

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

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

(i) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681 (757-864-2497).

(j) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812 (256-544-2030).

(k) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (228-688-2164).

Limited hard copies of the DEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting Mark Dahl at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark R. Dahl, 202-358-1544; electronic mail ([marsscop@hq.nasa.gov](mailto:marsscop@hq.nasa.gov)). The DEIS also is available in Acrobat® format at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oss> or <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oss/mars.htm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** MS 01 mission is part of a series of missions to characterize Mars' atmosphere, geologic history, climate, and the relationship to Earth's climate change process. These missions aim to determine what resources Mars provides for future exploration, and to search for evidence of past and present life. The MS 01 mission would specifically continue the global reconnaissance of Mars via an orbiter spacecraft, and continue the intense study of local areas of the surface via a lander/rover spacecraft.

The proposed action consists of continuing preparations for and implementing the MS 01 mission. The MS 01 orbiter would be launched on a Delta II 7925 from VAFB in March-April 2001. The MS 01 lander carrying the rover would be launched on a Delta II 7425 from CCAS in April 2001. Alternatives that were evaluated included an Orbiter-and-Lander-Only mission, an Orbiter-Only mission, and the No-Action alternative.

For the MS 01 mission, the potentially affected environment for normal launches includes the areas at and in the vicinity of the two launch sites, CCAS in Florida and VAFB in California. The environmental impacts of normal launches of the two spacecraft for the proposed action would be associated principally with the exhaust emissions from each of the Delta II launch vehicles. These effects would include short-term impacts on air quality within the exhaust cloud and near the launch pads, and the potential for acidic deposition on the vegetation and surface water bodies at and near each launch complex, particularly if a rain storm occurred. The potential exists for disturbance of some protected wildlife species, which has been addressed by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and incidental take permits and mitigation plans are in place.

A concern associated with launch of the MS 01 lander/rover spacecraft involves potential launch accidents that could result in the release of some of the radioactive material on board the lander/rover spacecraft. The lander would employ two instruments which use small quantities of cobalt-57 ( $1.30 \times 10^{10}$  Becquerels or 350 millicuries) and curium-242 (up to  $7.40 \times 10^5$  Becquerels or 20 microcuries) as instrument sources. The rover would have three RHU's that use plutonium dioxide to provide heat to the electronics and batteries on board the rover. The radioisotope inventory of the three RHU's would total approximately  $3.69 \times 10^{12}$  Becquerels (99.6 curies) of plutonium. The rover would also carry curium-244 (up to  $3.70 \times 10^9$  Becquerels or 100 millicuries) on its spectrometer and a small americium-241 source (up to  $1.11 \times 10^6$  Becquerels or 30 microcuries) on a dust experiment package.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with NASA, has performed a risk assessment of potential accidents for the MS 01 lander/rover. This assessment used a methodology

refined through applications to the Galileo, Cassini, and Mars Pathfinder missions and incorporates safety tests on the RHU's, as well as evaluation of the January 17, 1997, Delta II accident at CCAS. DOE's risk assessment for this mission indicates that in the event of a launch accident the expected impacts of released radioactive material at and in the vicinity of the launch area, and on a global basis, would be small.

**Jeffrey E. Sutton,**

*Associate Administrator for Management Systems.*

[FR Doc. 99-30864 Filed 11-26-99; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (99-146)]

### Notice of Prospective Patent License

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of Prospective Patent License.

**SUMMARY:** NASA hereby gives notice that CISC, Inc. of Akron, Ohio, has applied for a partially exclusive license to practice the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 5,379,469, entitled "Constant Current Loop Impedance Measuring Device That Is Immune to the Effects of Parasite Impedances," which is assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The fields of use will be limited to medical applications and sleep disorder devices. Written objections to the prospective grant of a license should be sent to the Assistant Patent Counsel of the NASA Management Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

**DATE:** Responses to this notice must be received by January 28, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John H. Kusmiss, Assistant Patent Counsel, NASA Management Office—JPL, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Mail Station 180-802, Pasadena, CA 91109-8099; Telephone (818) 354-7770.

Dated: November 19, 1999.

**Edward A. Frankle,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 99-30817 Filed 11-26-99; 8:45 am]

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