

APPENDIX I
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD SUMMARY

(This page intentionally left blank)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of the public comment period for the NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The public notices, public meeting materials, and public comments are provided in the attached appendices.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Draft Site-wide PEIS was available for comment during the 45-day public comment period that ran from May 4 to June 18, 2018. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) is provided a 60-day Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) review; VDEQ's CZMA comment period ended July 3, 2018.

2.1 Notice of Availability

The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published on May 4, 2018 in the *Federal Register* (**Appendix A**). The NOA notified the public and government entities of the draft PEIS availability, identified where copies of the draft PEIS could be reviewed, and provided information on how to electronically review the draft PEIS and submit comments to NASA WFF. The NOA provided the duration of the 45-day comment period, and announced the date and time of the public meeting held at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center. A NOA was also published in four area newspapers: *Eastern Shore News*, *Chincoteague Beacon*, *Eastern Shore Post*, and *The Daily Times* (**Appendix A**).

In addition to the *Federal Register* and area newspaper notices, emails were sent to NASA WFF employees, tenants and partners that provided meeting information and invited comments on the findings in the Draft Site-wide PEIS. A project website has been established and maintained at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis.

2.2 Public Meeting

Public meetings are an important aspect of the environmental impact analysis process. A public meeting was held at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center on May 23, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meeting was in an "open house" format to create a comfortable atmosphere where attendees could interact directly with NASA personnel. Attendees were welcomed at the entrance by NASA representatives. Attendees were asked to sign in, provided a factsheet, and directed to a poster display. Posters were designed to describe the Proposed Action, present the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, provide an overview of several institutional support projects and operational missions and activities, and briefly describe the roles of the cooperating agencies in many of these proposals. Copies of the posters, factsheet, sign-in sheet, and comment sheet are found in **Appendix B**.

NASA provided the public with multiple venues for commenting during the public meeting. Attendees could complete a comment form and give it to a NASA representative at the meeting; mail, email, or fax comments; or provide oral comments to the stenographer present at the meeting. One member of the public attended the public meeting. No written or oral comments were submitted during the public meeting. Ms. Shari Miller provided the stenographer with a statement for the record that no oral public comments were given. The public meeting transcript is located in **Appendix C**.

2.3 Public Comments

NASA received nine comment documents containing approximately 60 comments during the 45-day public comment period. All comments received were considered to determine whether corrections, clarifications, or other revisions were required before publishing the Final Site-wide PEIS. **Appendix C** provides the comment documents that were received during the public comment period and NASA's responses to those comments.

Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS		
Comment Document	Public, Agency or Organization	Commenter
001	Private Citizen	BK1492
002	Somerset County	Ralph Taylor
003	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Brian Denson
004	Environmental Protection Agency	Barbara Rudnick
005	Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Randal Owen
006	U.S. Navy Surface Combat Systems Center	Michael Hooks
007	National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service	John Gironda
008	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Keith Hanson; Brian Hopper
009	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	Bettina Rayfield; John Fisher

PUBLIC NOTICES

(This page intentionally left blank)

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room N-3437 A-B, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210.

Written Comments: Submit written comments to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2018-0005, Room N-3653, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210; telephone (202) 693-2350. You may submit materials, including attachments, electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the on-line instructions for submissions. All comments should be identified with Docket No. OSHA-2018-0005.

Registration To Attend and/or To Participate in the Meeting: If you wish to attend the public meeting, make an oral presentation at the meeting, or participate in the meeting via telephone, you must register using this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/occupational-safety-and-health-administration-stakeholder-meeting-registration-45311347460> by close of business on May 29, 2018. Participants may speak and pass out written materials, but there will not be an opportunity to give an electronic presentation. Actual times provided for presentation will depend on the number of requests, but no more than 10 minutes per participant. There is no fee to register for the public meeting. Registration on the day of the public meeting will be permitted on a space-available basis beginning at 12 p.m. ET. After reviewing the presentation requests, participants will be contacted prior to the meeting with an approximate time the participants' presentation is scheduled to begin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For press inquiries: Mr. Frank Meilinger, Director, OSHA Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone (202) 693-1999; email meilinger.francis2@dol.gov.

For general information: Mr. Anthony Rosa, Deputy Director, OSHA Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone (202) 693-2199; email osha.dwpp@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scope of Meeting

OSHA is interested in obtaining information from the public on key issues facing the agency's whistleblower program. This meeting will be the first in a series of meetings requesting public input on this program. For this meeting, OSHA is focusing on issues relating to whistleblower protection in the railroad and trucking industries. In particular, the agency invites input on the following:

1. How can OSHA deliver better whistleblower customer service?
2. What kind of assistance can OSHA provide to help explain the whistleblower laws it enforces?

Request for Comments

Regardless of attendance at the public meeting, interested persons may submit written or electronic comments (see **ADDRESSES**). Submit a single copy of electronic comments or two paper copies of any mailed comments, except that individuals may submit one paper copy. Please indicate which industry (railroad or trucking) your comments are intended to address. To permit time for interested persons to submit data, information, or views on the issues in the "Scope of Meeting" section of this notice, submit comments by June 5, 2018. Please include Docket No. OSHA-2018-0005. Comments received may be seen in the U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA Docket Office, (see **ADDRESSES**), between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

Access to the Public Record

Electronic copies of this **Federal Register** notice are available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. This notice, as well as news releases and other relevant information, also are available on the Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs' web page at: <http://www.whistleblowers.gov>.

Authority and Signature

Loren Sweatt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, authorized the preparation of this notice under the authority granted by Secretary's Order 01-2012 (Jan. 18, 2012), 77 FR 3912 (Jan. 25, 2012); 29 U.S.C. 660(c); 49 U.S.C. 31105; 49 U.S.C. 20109, and 6 U.S.C. 1142.

Signed at Washington, DC on April 30, 2018.

Loren Sweatt,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 2018-09456 Filed 5-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (18-039)]

National Environmental Policy Act; Wallops Flight Facility; Site-Wide

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

for improvement of infrastructure and services at Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, and NASA's NEPA policy and procedures, NASA has prepared a Draft PEIS for the improvement of infrastructure and services at WFF. The Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Organization (FAA-ATO) and Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA-AST); the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA-NESDIS); the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); the U.S. Coast Guard; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); the U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA); the U.S. Navy, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR); U.S. Navy, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the U.S. Air Force Space Command/Space and Missile Systems Center; and Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (Virginia Space) have served as Cooperating Agencies in preparing the Draft PEIS as they either have permanent facilities or missions at WFF or possess regulatory authority or specialized expertise pertaining to the Proposed Action.

The purpose of this notice is to apprise interested agencies, organizations, tribal governments, and individuals of the availability of the Draft PEIS and to invite comments on the document. In partnership with its Cooperating Agencies, NASA will hold a public meeting as part of the Draft PEIS review process. The meeting location and date is provided under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit comments on environmental issues and concerns, preferably in writing, no later than forty-five (45) days following the publication of the EPA's Notice of Availability of the Draft PEIS in the **Federal Register**. Once known, this date will be posted on the project website at: https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis.

ADDRESSES: Comments submitted by mail should be addressed to Shari Miller, Site-wide PEIS, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Mailstop: 250.W, Wallops Island, Virginia 23337. Comments may

be submitted via email to
Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov.

The Draft PEIS may be reviewed at the following locations:

- (a) Chincoteague Island Library,
Chincoteague, Virginia, 23336 (757)
336-3460
- (b) NASA Wallops Visitor Center,
Wallops Island, Virginia, 23337
(757) 824-1344
- (c) Eastern Shore Public Library,
Accomac, Virginia, 23301 (757)
787-3400
- (d) Northampton Free Library,
Nassawadox, Virginia, 23413 (757)
414-0010

A limited number of hard copies of the Draft PEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting the NASA point of contact listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The Draft PEIS is available on the internet in Adobe® portable document format at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis. The **Federal Register** Notice of Intent to prepare the Draft PEIS, issued on July 11, 2011, is also available on the internet at the same website address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shari Miller, Site-wide PEIS, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Mailstop: 250.W, Wallops Island, Virginia 23337; telephone (757) 824-2327; email: Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov. A toll-free telephone number, (800) 521-3415, is also available for persons outside the local calling area. When using the toll-free number, please follow the menu options and enter the "pound sign (#)" followed by extension number "2327." Additional information about NASA's WFF may be found on the internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/home/index.html>. Information regarding the NEPA process for this proposal and supporting documents (as available) are located at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WFF is a NASA Goddard Space Flight Center field installation located in northern Accomack County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The facility consists of three distinct landmasses—the Main Base, Wallops Mainland, and Wallops Island. WFF operates the oldest active launch range in the continental U.S. and the only range completely under NASA management. For over 70 years, WFF has flown thousands of research vehicles in the quest for information on the characteristics of airplanes, rockets, and spacecraft, and to increase the knowledge of the Earth's upper atmosphere and the near space

environment. The flight programs and projects conducted by WFF range from small sounding and suborbital rockets, unmanned scientific balloons, manned aircraft, and orbital spacecraft to next-generation launch vehicles and small- and medium-classed launch vehicles. In keeping with the principles, goals, and guidelines of the 2010 National Space Policy, as updated by the 2013 U.S. National Space Transportation Policy and the 2017 Presidential Memorandum on Reinvigorating America's Human Space Exploration Program, NASA is proposing to improve its service capability at WFF to support a growing mission base in the areas of civil, defense, and academic aerospace. One guiding principle of the National Space Policy is for Federal agencies to facilitate the commercial space industry. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, a commercial launch site on Wallops Island, is a real-world example of WFF's commitment to making commercial access to space a reality. Accordingly, it is expected that a commercial presence at WFF will continue to expand in the coming years.

The National Space Policy also instructs Federal agencies to improve their partnerships through cooperation, collaboration, information sharing, and/or alignment of common pursuits with each other. WFF supports aeronautical research, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs by providing other NASA centers and other U.S. government agencies access to resources such as special use (*i.e.*, controlled/restricted) airspace, runways, and launch pads. WFF regularly facilitates a wide array of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) research, development, testing, and evaluation; training missions, including target and missile launches; and aircraft pilot training. Similar to its forecasted commercial growth at WFF, NASA also expects an increase in DoD presence at WFF in the foreseeable future.

Finally, the National Space Policy directs NASA to fulfill various key civil space roles regarding space science, exploration, and discovery; a number of which have been priorities at WFF for decades. NASA's need to ensure continued growth while preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of services is a key component of facilitating future projects and new missions at WFF.

Related Environmental Documents

In January 2005, NASA issued a Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant

Impact (FONSI) for its operations and institutional support at WFF. Since then, substantial growth has occurred and NASA, and its Cooperating Agencies, have prepared multiple supplemental NEPA documents including the 2008 EA/FONSI for the Wallops Research Park; the 2009 EA/FONSI for the Expansion of the Wallops Flight Facility Launch Range; the 2010 PEIS/Record of Decision for the Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program; the 2011 EA/FONSI for the Alternative Energy Project; the 2011 EA/FONSI for the Main Entrance Reconfiguration; the 2011 NOAA-NESDIS EA/FONSI for Electrical and Operational Upgrade, Space Addition, and Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Installation; the 2012 EA/FONSI for the North Wallops Island Unmanned Aerial Systems Airstrip Project; the U.S. Fleet Force Command's 2013 EA/FONSI for E-2/C-2 Field Carrier Landing Practice at WFF; the Navy's 2014 EA/FONSI for the Testing of Hypervelocity Projectiles and an Electromagnetic Railgun; the 2015 Supplemental EA/FONSI for Antares 200 Configuration Expendable Launch Vehicle at WFF; the 2016 EA/FONSI for Establishment of Restricted Area Airspace R-6604 C/D/E; the Navy's 2017 EA/FONSI for and the Installation and Operation of Air and Missile Defense Radar AN/SPY-6; and the 2017 U.S. Air Force's EA/FONSI for the Instrumentation Tower on Wallops Island.

Need for Preparing a PEIS

Since the 2005 WFF Site-wide EA, WFF, NOAA-NESDIS, and the Navy have updated their Master Plans; which propose new facilities and numerous infrastructure improvements to enable a growing mission base. Additionally, during reviews of the post-2005 Site-wide EA NEPA documents, resource agencies have expressed concerns regarding cumulative environmental effects and a desire for NASA to consider all reasonably foreseeable future projects at WFF in a consolidated NEPA document. NASA determined that preparing a single Site-wide PEIS not only would assist in its decision-making process for future mission growth at WFF but also address concerns regarding cumulative environmental effects. Therefore, the Site-wide PEIS considers all reasonably foreseeable future actions at WFF; those proposed by NASA along with those proposed by its tenants and partners.

Cooperating Agency Actions

The Site-wide PEIS will serve as a decision-making tool not only for NASA

but also for its Cooperating Agencies. Given the potential for their undertaking actions related to NASA's actions, each of these agencies has been involved closely in NASA's NEPA process.

Alternatives

The PEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's need to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of services. The planning horizon for actions in the PEIS is 20 years.

Currently under consideration are the Proposed Action and a No Action alternative. The Proposed Action would support a number of facility projects ranging from new construction, demolition, and renovation; the replacement of the Wallops causeway bridge; maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island; development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island; construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site; the introduction of new NASA and DoD programs at WFF; the expansion of the launch vehicle services with liquid-fueled intermediate class and solid fueled heavy class launch vehicles; and the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site. Under the No Action Alternative, WFF and its partners would continue the existing operations and programs previously discussed in the 2005 Site-Wide EA and the subsequent NEPA documents identified under *Related Environmental Documents*.

Public Meeting

NASA and its Cooperating Agencies will hold a public meeting to discuss WFF's proposed actions and to solicit comments on the Draft PEIS. The public meeting will be held at the WFF Visitor Center on May 23, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

NASA anticipates that the public will be most interested in the potential environmental impacts of each alternative on protected and special-status species, wetlands, noise, and socioeconomics.

In developing its Final PEIS, NASA will consider all comments received; comments received and responses to comments will be included in the Final PEIS. In conclusion, written public input on environmental issues and concerns associated with the

improvement of infrastructure and services at WFF is hereby requested.

Cheryl E. Parker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 2018-09469 Filed 5-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-13-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposal Review Panel for Computing and Communication Foundations; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub., L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

Name and Committee Code: Proposal Review Panel for Computing and Communication Foundations—Science and Technology Centers—Integrative Partnerships Site Visit (#1192)

Date and Time: May 21, 2018; 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.; May 22, 2018; 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.; May 23, 2018; 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Place: McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 43 Vassar St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

Type of Meeting: Part-Open.

Contact Person: Phillip Regalia, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Room W10207, Alexandria, VA 22314; Telephone: (703) 292-8910.

Purpose of Meeting: Site visit to assess the progress of the STC Award: 1231216 “A Center for Brains, Minds and Machines: The Science and the Technology of Intelligence”, and to provide advice and recommendations concerning further NSF support for the Center.

Agenda: MIT Renewal Review Site Visit

Monday, May 21, 2018

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Closed Site Team and NSF Staff meet to discuss site visit materials, review process and charge

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Open Presentations by Awardee Institution, faculty staff and students, to Site Team and NSF Staff; Discussions, question and answer sessions

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.: Closed Complete written site visit report with preliminary recommendations.

Reason for Closing: The work being reviewed during closed portions of the site review will include information of

a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the project. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: May 1, 2018.

Crystal Robinson,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-09479 Filed 5-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

Name and Committee Code: Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) Advisory Committee Meeting (#1173).

Date and Time: May 30, 2018 1:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.; May 31, 2018 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314. To help facilitate your entry into the building, please contact Una Alford (ualford@nsf.gov or 703-292-7111) on or prior to May 29, 2018.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Dr. Bernice Anderson, Senior Advisor and CEOSE Executive Secretary, Office of Integrative Activities (OIA), National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314. Contact Information: 703-292-8040/banderso@nsf.gov.

Minutes: Meeting minutes and other information may be obtained from the CEOSE Executive Secretary at the above address or the website at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/activities/ceose/index.jsp>.

Purpose of Meeting: To study data, programs, policies, and other information pertinent to the National Science Foundation and to provide advice and recommendations concerning broadening participation in science and engineering.

Agenda:

- Opening Statement and Chair Report by the CEOSE Chair
- NSF Executive Liaison Report
- Discussion: Responses to the 2015–2016 CEOSE Biennial Report: NSF and Higher Education

Top Va. education official talks school safety

Carol Vaughn
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK - DELMARVA

Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni was on the Eastern Shore of Virginia on Wednesday as part of a statewide listening tour.

Gov. Ralph Northam appointed the 40-year-old former civics, economics, U.S. history and math teacher at Beville Middle School in Prince William County, who immigrated from Pakistan at age 10 with his family.

He is the first of 19 Virginia secretaries of education to be appointed "right out of the classroom," Qarni said.

"There are a lot of teacher friends of mine who I talk to on a daily basis, and they are really counting on us to make a lot of changes — positive changes," he said.

Qarni, in addition to a question-and-answer session at Eastern Shore Community College, made stops at Kiptopeke Elementary School and Nandua High School and also was scheduled to attend a PTA meeting on the Shore.

Qarni said the listening tour is an important part of the Northam administration's strategy as it works on setting priorities for the next biennial budget.

"It's really important that we go and talk to different communities, and talk about what things are being done well and what challenges we are facing — and then after that, our office will produce a very comprehensive report and take that to the governor, saying these are our recommendations," he said.

Virginia's community colleges will play an important role, in particular in the area of workforce development, Qarni said.

Among a dozen questions Qarni



Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni speaks during a stop at Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa. STAFF PHOTO BY CAROL VAUGHN

fielded from college students, faculty and administrators in the hour-long session were queries about school safety, teacher shortages, standardized testing and dual enrollment.

Qarni said multiple actions are being taken at the state level to address concerns about school safety — including roundtables being convened by Secretary of Public Safety and Health Brian Moran; Secretary of Health Dr. Daniel Carey leading discussions about mental health issues; and the General Assembly's creation of a commission to study the problem.

"So there are a lot of folks working in different silos. Right now, what our goal will be from an education perspective, is

to try to get everybody to communicate better," Qarni said.

"One thing we don't want is that education perspective missing — it's a big piece of it," he said.

Qarni said in his view, there needs to be a focus on devoting additional resources to school counselors, in addition to the emphasis on providing more school resource offices and on improving security of school buildings.

"We have significant issues with the ratio of school counselors to students, and also, school counselors are doing a lot more things outside of actually working with children," he said.

Qarni also spoke about the teacher shortage problem in Virginia and efforts

to develop a statewide plan to address it.

"We just ran the numbers. There are currently 935 positions where a long-term substitute is in the position which should be fully certified," he said, noting that number is slightly lower than last year.

Special education is the biggest area with a shortage, with about 250 teaching positions unfilled.

Additionally, there has been a rise in teacher shortages at the elementary school level, Qarni said.

"Salary — how to really wrap our head around increasing salaries — is a significant issue," he said, adding, "It's probably the most challenging thing as far as the teacher shortage is concerned."

Additional related concerns include working conditions for teachers, which are affected by things like class size and older buildings in some regions.

"It can't be a one size fits all approach. There are some broad challenges that apply to everyone, but then there are very specific things," Qarni said, adding, "One thing that we don't want to do is try to have unfunded state mandates."

"From our perspective, we are going to have a statewide plan — it definitely will have a fund attached to it," he said.

Among state initiatives that will be announced during Teacher Appreciation Week in May are several provisions to help teachers, including legislation that increases the time allowed for teachers to get recertification from five to 10 years and an extension of the provisional license term from three to five years, Qarni said.

On Twitter @cvvaughnESN
443-260-3314



In this 2017 file photo, a man looks at a map showing where the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority has fiber laid on the Eastern Shore, at a town hall meeting at Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY CAROL VAUGHN

Broadband

Continued from Page 1A

brand, using a combination of wireless technologies, including television white spaces, the release said.

"DNG and Microsoft share a commitment to establishing quality broadband solutions for rural America," said Bob Nichols, chief executive officer of DNG.

"Our partnership reflects a shared vision that focuses on an effective plan to align stakeholders, technology and resources for a sustainable path to address the digital divide," he said.

Virginia and Maryland officials commented on the need to close the rural broadband gap.

"As a native of the Eastern Shore, I am thrilled that Microsoft is taking action to bring new broadband connectivity to communities that need it,"

Gov. Ralph Northam said, adding, "This new effort, in addition to ongoing efforts in state government, will help bridge the digital divide."

"Connecting rural communities will help create jobs, grow our economy and improve our quality of life. I am happy to celebrate this positive step forward as we work to make our commonwealth work better for all Virginians, no matter who you are or where you live."

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said, "Reliable access to high-speed internet is critical for Maryland's small businesses, families and students to thrive in our 21st century economy. We are working diligently to eliminate the rural broadband gap and ensure that all Marylanders have the opportunity to access trusted, cost-effective broadband solutions."

On Twitter @cvvaughnESN
443-260-3314

Ponies

Continued from Page 1A

Also Sunday, the fire company said the Saltwater cowboys responded to a report of three ponies stuck in the mud.

"Upon arriving the cowboys found one pony deceased and two more having difficulty. The two were transported to the carnival grounds and the vet was called," the fire company said in the Facebook post.

"The vet arrived, gave each pony two

IV bags of fluid, wrapped each pony with blankets where they will be monitored for a lil while to see how they are doing but as of this writing, they seem to be doing very well."

The fire company identified the two rescued ponies as Surf Queen and Randy.

It said the dead pony, named Wild Island Orchid, was given a proper burial. The mare was 24 years old, Cole said.

"Thank you to those who reported these issues that allowed us to get there quickly, the Facebook post said.



Wild Island Orchid, a 24-year-old Chincoteague pony, was found deceased by the Chincoteague Saltwater Cowboys in late April 2018. DSC PHOTOGRAPHY IMAGE

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement May 2018

NASA announces the availability of the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for improvement of infrastructure and services at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

The Draft PEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's needs, as well as the needs of the other federal Cooperating Agencies, to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. The planning horizon for actions in the PEIS is 20 years.

The Proposed Action would support a number of facility projects including new construction, demolition, and renovation; the replacement of the Wallops Island causeway bridge; maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island; development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island; construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site; the introduction of new NASA and DoD programs at WFF; the expansion of the launch vehicle services to include liquid-fueled

intermediate class and solid-fueled heavy class launch vehicles; the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions; and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site.

The Draft PEIS is available for public review at the following locations:
Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague, VA
Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomack, VA
Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox, VA
WFF Visitor Center, Rt. 175, VA

Additionally, NASA is hosting a public meeting at 6:00 pm on May 23, 2018, at the WFF Visitor Center. NASA will consider all comments in preparing the Final PEIS. Comments on the Draft PEIS are requested by June 18, 2018. Comments should be addressed to:

Shari Miller
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Mailstop: 250.W
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337
Phone: 757-824-2327
e-mail: Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov

A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting Ms. Shari Miller at the above address. The Draft PEIS is also available on the internet in Adobe® portable document format (pdf) at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis

NOW PLAYING

Roseland Theatre
Onancock, VA

Movie Info 757-787-2209 CC-AL-AD
www.roselandonancock.com

Island Theatre
Chincoteague, VA

Movie Ticket Info 757-336-6109
www.islandtheatres.com

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

RATED PG-13
WED-THU-FRI-SAT
MAY 2-3-4-5 7 PM
SUN MAY 6 3 PM & 7 PM

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR MOVIES & EVENTS DURING THE OFF-SEASON.

www.islandtheatres.com

757-336-6109

MD-000659841



In this Nov. 12, 2017, file photo, an Orbital ATK Antares rocket launched from the Wallops Flight Facility. NASA IMAGE

Commercial resupply launch set for Wallops

Jeremy Cox Salisbury Daily Times | USA TODAY NETWORK - DELMARVA

NASA and a private contractor plan to light up the predawn sky over the Eastern Shore of Virginia next month with the launch of a commercial resupply rocket.

Dulles, Virginia,-based Orbital ATK will deliver supplies and science experiments to the International Space Station for the ninth time.

The Antares rocket's takeoff is scheduled for 5:04 a.m. Sunday, May 20. NASA didn't immediately provide launch-viewing information, but the flights are typically visible from much of the Mid-Atlantic and along the East Coast from New Hampshire to South Carolina.

The last Orbital launch at Wallops soared into space Nov. 12. Its Cygnus payload carried 7,400 pounds of cargo to the space station.

The flight was delayed nearly 24 hours after a small airplane wandered into the restricted area moments in the final minutes of countdown.

NASA's contract with Orbital was initially valued at \$1.9 billion. It is one of two aerospace companies, along with Elon Musk's SpaceX, that ferry supplies to the orbiting outpost.

SpaceX conducts its flights at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

WATERFRONT	WATERFRONT	WATERFRONT
		
CHINCOTEAGUE 3BR/2.5BA MLS#46884 \$345,000 Beach home close to town	CHINCOTEAGUE 3BR/3BA MLS#47241 \$289,000 Townhouse rents \$1150 week vacation rental. Reduced to sell	CHINCOTEAGUE 2BR/2.5BA MLS#47020 \$262,900 Fiddler Bay Townhouse
Coldwell Banker Harbour Realty & Harbour Rentals LLC "Expect the Best" 6455 Maddok Blvd. Suite 1 Chincoteague, VA 23336 www.discoverchincoteague.com 757-336-5490 800-221-5059 Anita Merritt & Gladys Baczek Real Estate Sales & Rentals		
    		

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement May 2018

NASA announces the availability of the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for improvement of infrastructure and services at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

The Draft PEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's needs, as well as the needs of the other federal Cooperating Agencies, to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. The planning horizon for actions in the PEIS is 20 years.

The Proposed Action would support a number of facility projects including new construction, demolition, and renovation; the replacement of the Wallops Island causeway bridge; maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island; development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island; construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site; the introduction of new NASA and DoD programs at WFF; the expansion of the launch vehicle services to include liquid-fueled

intermediate class and solid-fueled heavy class launch vehicles; the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions; and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site.

The Draft PEIS is available for public review at the following locations:

Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague, VA
 Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomac, VA
 Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox, VA
 WFF Visitor Center, Rt. 175, VA

Additionally, NASA is hosting a public meeting at 6:00 pm on May 23, 2018, at the WFF Visitor Center. NASA will consider all comments in preparing the Final PEIS. Comments on the Draft PEIS are requested by June 18, 2018. Comments should be addressed to:

Shari Miller
 NASA Wallops Flight Facility
 Mailstop: 250.W
 Wallops Island, Virginia 23337
 Phone: 757-824-2327
 e-mail:Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov



A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting Ms. Shari Miller at the above address. The Draft PEIS is also available on the internet in Adobe® portable document format (pdf) at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis

For additional information, please call 757-824-2327, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F.

Cape Charles Man Convicted of Child Sex Crimes To Be Sentenced Next Week

By Linda Cicaira

Lenny Rock Kenner, the 39-year-old Cape Charles man who was convicted of sex crimes with a six-year-old girl last spring, will be sentenced in Northampton Circuit Court next week. A jury recommended life plus seven years in prison and a fine of \$200.

He was brought before Judge W. Revell Lewis III and given the mandatory term of five years in prison Monday for possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felon. That offense occurred in October 2015. It is unclear from the record what the previous felony was.

The incidents with the girl happened in 2014 and include convictions for object penetration of a child under 13, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison; aggravated sexual battery, which the jury recommended a term of five years and the fine; and custodial sexual abuse, for which the jury said he should serve two years. The girl was living at Kenner's home when the incidents occurred.

Kenner is being held in Eastern Shore Regional Jail, which is connected

to the courthouse. Testimony at the trial showed Kenner served as a father figure to the victim and several other adolescents and teenagers including his own children.

Thirty-eight counts of possession of child pornography, listed as occurring in November 2015, were not prosecuted. Court records state those charges were not pursued "for tactical reasons in accordance with the discretion exercised by the commonwealth's attorney." The document was signed by Common-

New Program for Finding At-Risk Wanderers

A program designed to find and rescue people who are at risk from wandering away from their loved ones, including those with Alzheimer's, autism, Down syndrome, and dementia, was initiated locally this week, according to Accomack Sheriff Todd Godwin.

The law enforcement agency joined forces with Project Lifesaver International, a leader in electronic search and rescue programs. Training includes teaching public safety officials how to

wealth's Attorney Beverly Leatherbury, defense lawyer Garrett Dunham, and Lewis last summer. Records stated 36 of the images were found on the desktop computer in the defendant's bedroom. The girl said he showed her sex videos.

A victim impact statement was filed in the court and made by the girl's mother. "This will affect her for the rest of her life," the woman wrote. "She had a part of her soul taken. She takes four baths plus a day with changing

(of) all of her clothes. She also refuses to be in any room alone. I will also live with the challenges my daughter faces and nothing can ever heal her," the mother continued. "She receives ... services five days a week even at school and will continue to receive any help she needs. Before this happened ... she loved to laugh and smile and almost nothing made her mad. Now she thinks everything is her fault and feels like no one likes her."

use the equipment and how to gain the trust of and communicate with those in need. Training for caregivers will also be available, which Godwin said is "essential to a successful rescue."

Participants will wear, on their wrist or ankle, a radio transmitter that is comparable in size to a watch. The transmitter constantly emits a signal that can be tracked even in dense woods, a marsh, a concrete garage, or in a steel building.

The program allows rescues to be made in about 30 minutes, Godwin said. "Additionally, we have access to air support services, should it become necessary. The Accomack County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) ... is constantly working toward developing public policy and effective law enforcement response to help save lives and bring loved ones home," he said.

To enroll, call coordinator, Capt. Todd Wessells of ACSO, at 757-787-1131.

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement May 2018

NASA announces the availability of the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for improvement of infrastructure and services at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

The Draft PEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's needs, as well as the needs of the other federal Cooperating Agencies, to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. The planning horizon for actions in the PEIS is 20 years.

The Proposed Action would support a number of facility projects including new construction, demolition, and renovation; the replacement of the Wallops Island causeway bridge; maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island; development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island; construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site; the introduction of new NASA and DoD programs at WFF;

the expansion of the launch vehicle services to include liquid-fueled intermediate class and solid-fueled heavy class launch vehicles; the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions; and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site.

The Draft PEIS is available for public review at the following locations:

Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague, VA
Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomac, VA
Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox, VA
WFF Visitor Center, Rt. 175, VA

Additionally, NASA is hosting a public meeting at 6:00 pm on **May 23, 2018**, at the WFF Visitor Center.

NASA will consider all comments in preparing the Final PEIS. Comments on the Draft PEIS are requested by June 18, 2018. Comments should be addressed to:

Shari Miller
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Mailstop: 250.W
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337
Phone: 757-824-2327
e-mail: Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov



A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting Ms. Shari Miller at the above address. The Draft PEIS is also available on the internet in Adobe® portable document format (pdf) at: https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis

For additional information, please call 757-824-2327, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F.



HERMITAGE

EASTERN SHORE

PINNACLE LIVING

JOIN OUR TEAM

Part-time cook position is now available.



STOP BY & PICK UP AN APPLICATION!

23610 NORTH STREET | ONANCOCK, VA 23417
757 789 7500 | HERMITAGESHORE.ORG



SALISBURY FIVE-DAY FORECAST

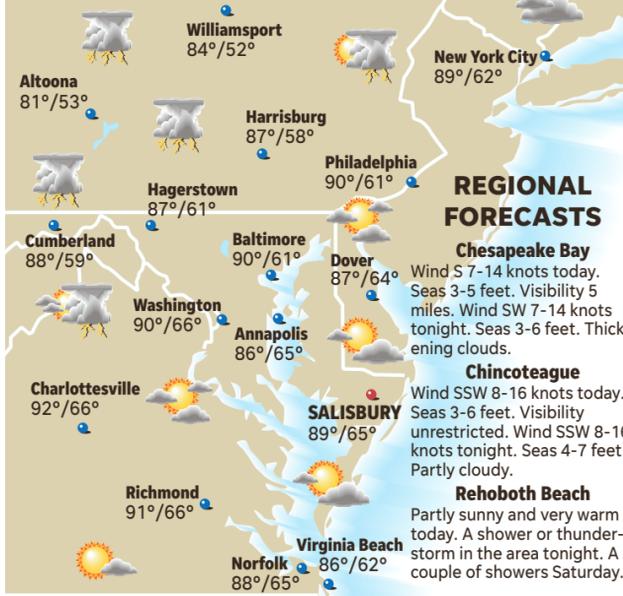
TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH 89° LOW 65° Partly sunny	HIGH 76° LOW 58° Not as warm with a few showers	HIGH 71° LOW 51° Cloudy with brief showers	HIGH 69° LOW 45° Partly sunny and nice	HIGH 69° LOW 44° Mostly sunny and nice

SALISBURY TODAY
Partly sunny and breezy today with the temperature tying the record from 2001. Increasing clouds tonight.

OCEAN CITY TODAY
Partly sunny and pleasantly warm today. Clear early tonight, then increasing clouds. Rather cloudy Saturday with a couple of showers.

ALMANAC
Salisbury through 4 p.m. Thursday
Temperature:
Thursday's high/low 85°/62°
Normal high/low 73°/51°
Precipitation:
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Thu. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.29"
Year to date 11.60"
Normal year to date 15.15"
Last year to date 11.23"

REGIONAL WEATHER
Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



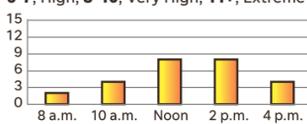
REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Saturday
Annapolis	86 65 pc	72 59 sh
Baltimore	90 61 pc	73 56 sh
Cambridge	86 64 pc	74 59 sh
Charlottesville	92 66 pc	74 58 sh
Crisfield	80 65 pc	71 59 t
Cumberland	88 59 c	73 56 sh
Danville	87 61 pc	77 58 pc
Dover	87 64 pc	72 57 sh
Frederick	90 61 pc	73 58 sh
Fredericksburg	91 65 pc	76 60 sh
Gettysburg	86 59 pc	72 55 sh
Hagerstown	87 61 c	71 57 sh
Martinsburg	89 61 c	72 57 sh
Norfolk	88 65 s	76 61 pc
Ocean City	75 62 pc	67 57 sh
Pittsburgh	76 50 t	73 53 pc
Rehoboth Beach	83 63 pc	71 59 sh
Richmond	91 66 pc	77 60 t
Virginia Beach	86 62 s	79 62 pc
Washington, DC	90 66 pc	75 60 sh
Wheaton	91 65 pc	74 59 sh
Williamsburg	90 67 s	79 62 pc
Wilmington, DE	88 60 pc	74 57 sh

MARINE FORECAST

Location	Forecast
Tangier Sound	Partly sunny today. Wind S 7-14 knots. Seas 3-5 feet. Visibility 5 miles. Showers Saturday. Wind E 6-12 knots. Seas 1-3 feet.
Pocomoke Sound	Partly sunny today. Wind S 8-16 knots. Seas 4-7 feet. Visibility 5 miles. Showers Saturday. Wind N 4-8 knots. Seas 2-4 feet.
Chesapeake Bay from Choptank River to Hooper Straits	Clouds and sun today. Wind SSW 7-14 knots. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility 5 miles. Showers Saturday. Wind N 4-8 knots becoming S. Seas 1-2 feet.
Cape Henlopen	Partly sunny today. Wind S 8-16 knots. Seas 4-8 feet. Visibility 5 miles. Showers Saturday. Wind NE 4-8 knots. Seas 3-6 feet.
Ocean City	Clouds and sun today; unhealthy air quality for sensitive groups. Wind SSW 10-20 knots. Visibility 5 miles. Seas 4-8 feet. Water temp 54.

UV INDEX TODAY
The higher the AccuWeather UV Index™ number the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2, Low; 3-5, Moderate; 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme



SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 6:02 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:56 p.m.
Moonrise today none
Moonset today 9:28 a.m.
Total daylight 13 hrs. 54 min.
Daylight gain 1 min.



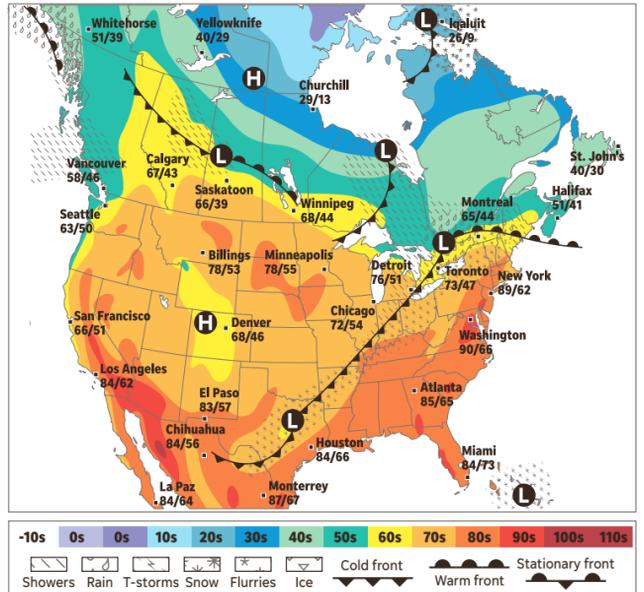
THE SKY Source: Longway Planetarium
Tonight and tomorrow morning is the peak of the Aquariid meteor shower, but the bright moon will make the shower tougher to enjoy.

TIDE INFORMATION
Today's High/Low Tides

Location	High	Low
Salisbury (Port of Salisbury)	6:55 7:20	12:37 1:22
Ocean City (Inlet)	11:18 11:39	5:25 5:19
Chincoteague Channel (south end)	11:55 ---	5:44 5:38
Crisfield (Somer's Cove)	4:24 4:49	11:03 11:00
Nanticoke (Roaring Point)	5:34 5:59	--- 12:33
Cambridge (Long Wharf)	7:42 8:13	1:02 3:06

AG FORECAST
Partly sunny and breezy today with the temperature tying the record from 2001. Winds SW 10-20 mph. Expect 8-12 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 45% and excellent drying conditions. Increasing clouds tonight. Winds SW 6-12 mph. Average humidity 65%.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

NATIONAL SUMMARY
Gusty winds and thunderstorms will rattle the eastern Great Lakes states today as warmth continues to span the mid-Atlantic and Southeast. Flooding downpours and gusty thunderstorms will target Texas, while most of the Plains welcome a quieter day. Meanwhile, dry and warmer weather will encompass much of the West.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Saturday	City	Today	Saturday
Atlanta	85 65 s	82 61 pc	Los Angeles	84 62 s	87 61 pc
Atlanta City	87 64 pc	74 56 sh	Louisville	81 62 t	75 57 sh
Boston	78 58 c	74 55 s	Memphis	80 63 c	75 58 t
Charleston, SC	84 63 s	85 67 pc	Miami	84 73 pc	84 75 sh
Charleston, WV	82 58 t	71 54 r	Minneapolis	78 55 pc	81 50 pc
Cincinnati	77 55 t	73 52 c	Nashville	83 64 c	72 56 t
Columbia, SC	90 63 s	88 65 pc	New Orleans	85 68 pc	84 67 c
Dallas	71 58 sh	83 59 pc	New York	89 62 pc	74 60 pc
Denver	68 46 s	75 46 pc	Oklahoma City	74 52 pc	82 55 s
Des Moines	76 54 pc	83 57 s	Philadelphia	90 61 pc	74 58 sh
Honolulu	83 70 r	83 72 sh	Phoenix	94 70 s	102 77 s
Houston	84 66 c	81 63 c	Portland, OR	69 52 c	75 57 pc
Indianapolis	75 54 sh	77 55 s	Raleigh	87 62 s	83 63 pc
Jacksonville	85 60 s	84 64 pc	St. Louis	77 58 c	81 60 c
Kansas City	77 53 s	83 56 s	San Francisco	66 51 pc	65 53 c
Las Vegas	87 68 s	93 71 pc	Seattle	63 50 c	69 54 pc

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Saturday	City	Today	Saturday
Athens	80 66 t	80 65 t	London	66 49 pc	71 47 pc
Bangkok	91 79 t	91 79 t	Madrid	71 49 s	73 54 pc
Beijing	81 57 s	82 63 c	Mexico City	78 60 pc	75 55 pc
Berlin	65 40 s	67 45 s	Montreal	65 44 r	66 51 pc
Buenos Aires	68 60 c	69 64 r	Moscow	72 55 s	76 50 pc
Cairo	102 69 pc	93 71 pc	Nassau	83 75 t	86 77 pc
Copenhagen	57 44 pc	61 47 pc	Paris	68 48 s	75 53 s
Dublin	65 49 pc	66 45 pc	Sao Goncalo	86 71 s	86 70 pc
Frankfurt	69 49 s	74 49 s	Rome	70 56 t	70 54 t
Hong Kong	81 74 pc	84 77 c	Tokyo	73 57 pc	77 58 s
Jerusalem	87 65 c	81 63 s	Toronto	73 47 c	73 51 pc

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2018

who, what, when, where, why and Now!

your online connection to what's happening on delmarva

delmarvanow.com
A GANNETT COMPANY

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement May 2018

NASA announces the availability of the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for improvement of infrastructure and services at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

The Draft PEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's needs, as well as the needs of the other federal Cooperating Agencies, to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. The planning horizon for actions in the PEIS is 20 years.

The Proposed Action would support a number of facility projects including new construction, demolition, and renovation; the replacement of the Wallops Island causeway bridge; maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island; development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island; construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site; the introduction of new NASA and DoD programs at WFF; the expansion of the launch vehicle services to include liquid-fueled intermediate class and solid-fueled heavy class launch vehicles; the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions; and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site.

The Draft PEIS is available for public review at the following locations:
Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague, VA
Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomack, VA
Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox, VA
WFF Visitor Center, Rt. 175, VA

Additionally, NASA is hosting a public meeting at 6:00 pm on May 23, 2018, at the WFF Visitor Center. NASA will consider all comments in preparing the Final PEIS. Comments on the Draft PEIS are requested by June 18, 2018. Comments should be addressed to:

Shari Miller
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Mailstop: 250.W
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337
Phone: 757-824-2327
e-mail:Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov

A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting Ms. Shari Miller at the above address. The Draft PEIS is also available on the internet in Adobe® portable document format (pdf) at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis

For additional information, please call 757-824-2327, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F.

IT'S LIKE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE FOR CAR BUYING

At Cars.com it's our mission to help you get the best deal on the car of your dreams. Start with our Price Badges, they easily allow you to see if you're getting a deal, and with our Price Comparison Tool, you can instantly compare price, features, & value on all listings in your area. Visit Cars.com or download the app today.

FAIR DEAL **GOOD DEAL** **GREAT DEAL**

© 2018 Cars.com, LLC

(This page intentionally left blank)

PUBLIC MEETING MATERIALS

(This page intentionally left blank)

Welcome

TO THE WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE DRAFT SITE-WIDE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (PEIS)

NASA Wallops Flight Facility is hosting a public information meeting this evening.

Participants at tonight's open-house meeting will have the opportunity to view a poster presentation of many of the projects and activities proposed at the facility.

Participants are invited to provide comments on the findings presented in the Draft PEIS. A court reporter will take your oral comments or you may give your written comments to a WFF representative this evening. You may also mail, email or fax your comments.



NASA WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY



NASAUAS-006-072211

WFF is located in the northeastern portion of Accomack County, Virginia, on the Delmarva Peninsula. The facility is comprised of the Main Base, Wallops Mainland, and Wallops Island.

Components of the Proposed Action would occur at all three main areas of WFF.

SITE-WIDE PEIS

PURPOSE AND NEED

The **PURPOSE** of the Proposed Action is to meet strategic management goals developed by Goddard Space Flight Center WFF and to increase WFF's ability to support a growing mission base in the areas of commercial, defense, civil, and academic aerospace research.

The **NEED** for the proposed action is to:

- Support the growing U.S. focus on the commercial space industry
- Create more frequent partnership opportunities with defense agencies
- Continue the NASA role in academia, civil space science, exploration, and discovery
- Safely increase WFF's operational frequency on Wallops Island, and
- Replace aging infrastructure by renewing, sustaining, and consolidating WFF facilities.

The Site-Wide PEIS evaluated the most reasonably foreseeable actions at WFF within a 20-year planning horizon

PROPOSED ACTION

The **Proposed Action** would implement numerous institutional support projects (i.e., construction, demolition and renovation) and new or expanded operational missions and activities.

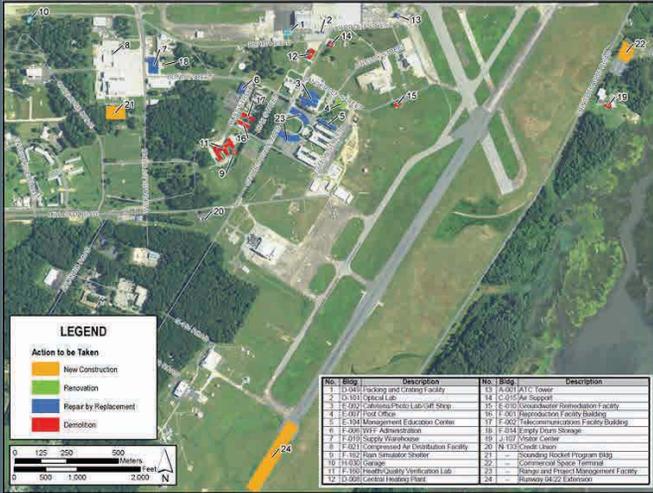
Under the **No Action Alternative**, the level of activity at WFF would remain at present levels. The No Action Alternative serves as the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Action are compared.

The actions considered within this document are at various stages of conceptual maturity.

In some cases, the level of discussion may be such that the environmental consequences can be adequately considered and an informed decision made, therefore eliminating the need for additional NEPA documentation.

For others, only high level, cursory treatment can be given thereby warranting more focused analysis in the future once plans become more certain.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECTS WFF



Main Base Construction, Demolition, and RBR Locations – WFF projects

A Commercial Space Terminal may be located on the east side of the WFF airfield. The terminal may include lodging, dining areas, and training facilities such as pools, classroom space, mission specific training equipment, and other required facilities.

Runway 04/22 would be lengthened to add an additional 1,250 ft to the runway surface. This extension would accommodate horizontal launch and landing vehicles at the Main Base.



Causeway Bridge

The 1960's era bridge is at the end of its design life. A new causeway bridge would be constructed parallel to the existing structure prior to its removal.

Main Base Construction, Demolition, and RBR Locations – NOAA Projects



The entire barge route between the Main Base and Wallops Island boat basins would be dredged to remove long-term sedimentation of the non-Federal channel. The route would be dredged to the depth needed to support barge transfer of cargo too large for overland transport.

Refer to Site-wide PEIS Section 2.5.1 for the complete list and descriptions of institutional support projects proposed at WFF

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECTS MARS



Launch Vehicle Pad 0-C (Notional)

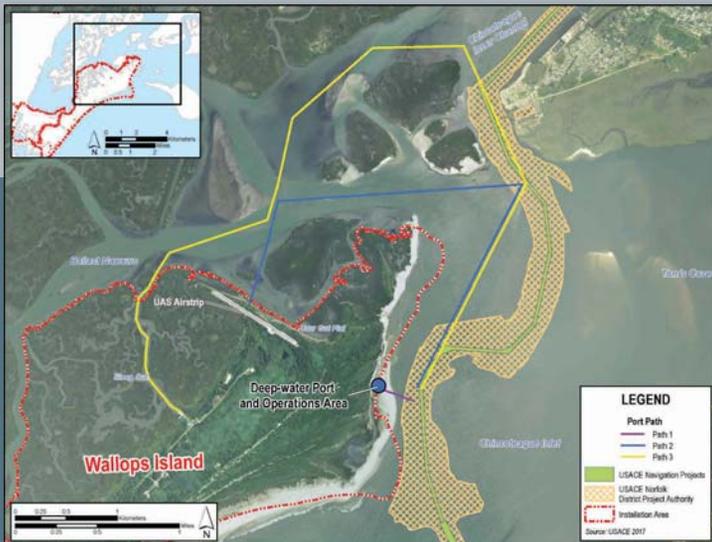
Launch activity on Wallops Island is anticipated to increase. A new launch vehicle launch pad is being considered at the south end of Wallops Island to support the preparation of concurrent launch activities.



Launch Vehicle Pier 0-D (Notional)

To provide additional launch capability, a launch vehicle launch pier is being introduced for consideration.

Two notional locations are presented. An LV launch pad at either location would include a pile-supported pad access ramp, launch pad, and deluge system/flame deflector over water.



North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area

A deep-water port and operations area is being considered for the north end of Wallops Island. This project would support barge access and berthing for offloading large launch vehicle components and related equipment. Three notional pathways are being considered.

Refer to Site-wide PEIS Section 2.5.1 for the complete list and descriptions of institutional support projects proposed at WFF

OPERATIONAL MISSIONS AND ACTIVITIES EXPANDED SPACE PROGRAM



Falcon 9

Developed by SpaceX, the Falcon 9 is considered a fully reusable **vertical launch and landing** LV due to its ability to return its first stage via soft landing back to Earth.



New Shepard vertical launch and landing vehicle

NASA is considering larger intermediate- and heavy-class LVs and intermediate-class return to launch site (RTLS) reusable LVs at WFF. Up to 6 liquid-fueled intermediate class (LFIC) LV launches/LFIC RTLS landings and 12 solid-fueled heavy class (SFHC) LV launches per year are being considered for distribution among launch Pads 0-A, 0-B, 0-C (proposed), or Launch Pier 0-D (proposed).



Examples of Wallops Flight Facility Approved Orbital Launch Vehicles



Horizontal launch and landing

LVs like Generation Orbit could launch from extended Runway 04/22 while LVs like SpaceShip Two/WhiteKnight Two could launch and land from extended Runway 04/22.



Commercial Human Spaceflight Missions

Steps are being taken to develop a U.S. commercial crew transportation capability with the goal of achieving safe, reliable and cost-effective access to and from the International Space Station and in Low Earth Orbit from WFF.

ENVELOPE CONCEPT AND NEPA TRIGGER

The Envelope Concept

The **envelope concept** is applied at WFF since missions at the facility are constantly evolving and, while the basic outline of a project may be known during the NEPA analysis, its details often have not been finalized.

A range or “envelope” of activities has been identified for each type of operation conducted at WFF; the scenario with the greatest potential for environmental impacts is presented.

NEPA Trigger

The envelope concept facilitates the environmental analysis documentation process by providing a threshold below which, if not exceeded, further in-depth NEPA analysis is not needed.

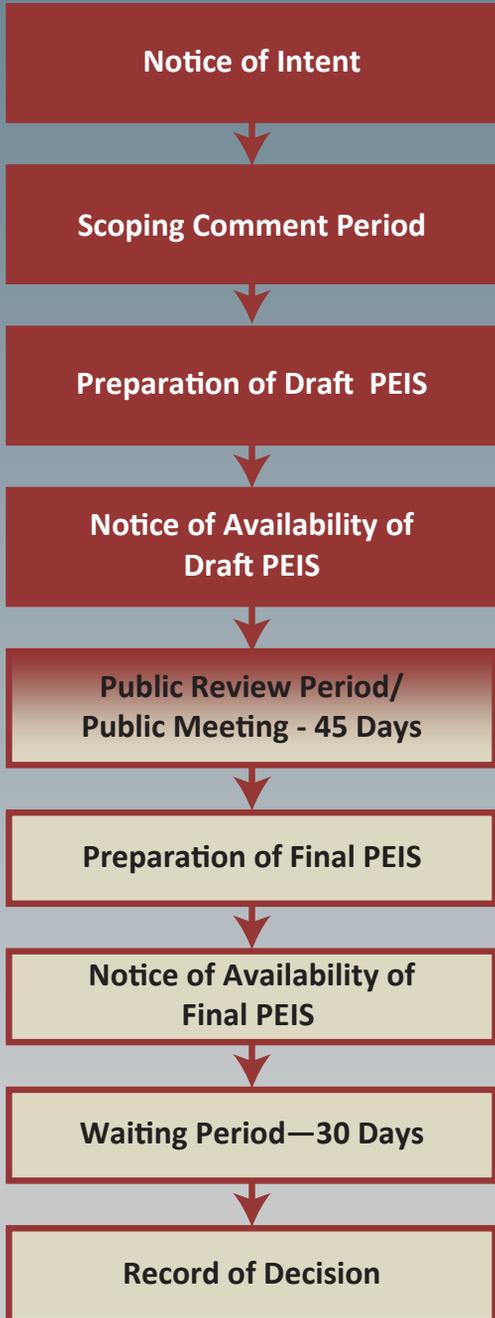
Baseline and Proposed Envelopes		
Activity	Baseline (No Action)	Change (Proposed Actions)
Institutional Support Projects		
Construction and Demolition	Existing construction design projects analyzed in previous NEPA documentation.	All new construction, demolition, and RBR projects proposed including Causeway Bridge replacement, development of North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and Launch Pad 0-C and Launch Pier 0-D.
Routine/Recurring Activities		
Fabrications	Existing fabrication processes/existing facilities.	No change.
Maintenance and Improvements	Existing maintenance and improvement activities.	Maintenance dredging.
Payload Processing Facilities	Existing payload processing activities.	No change.
Transportation Infrastructure	Existing transportation infrastructure.	Causeway Bridge replacement; maintenance dredging; North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area.
Utility Infrastructure	Existing utility infrastructure.	No change.
Safety and Security	Existing WFF fire prevention and protection programs.	No change.
Storage	Existing storage activities.	Hybrid fuels; greater capacity for liquid fuel for LFIC LV.
Operational Missions and Activities		
Scientific Research Programs and Education Programs	Existing payload envelopes established for radio frequencies, lasers, radioactive materials, biological agents, and chemical releases.	No change.
Airfield	Existing FAA designated airspace and runways.	No change.
Main Base Piloted and Unmanned Aircraft	Approximately 61,000 annual airfield operations.	No change in annual operations.
North Wallops Island UAS Operations	1,040 sorties per year. Limited night operations. The Viking 300 is the noise envelope; the Viking 400 is the vehicle size envelope.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase to 3,900 sorties per year. Increase in night operations. Vehicle size is limited to runway allowance. Addition of rotorcraft and vertical take-off and landing craft.
Orbital Rockets	18 orbital rocket launches per year (6 from Launch Pad 0-A; 12 from Pad 0-B). Antares is the envelope liquid-fueled LV to be launched from Launch Pad 0-A; Athena III is the envelope solid-fueled LV to be launched from Pad 0-B.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 orbital rocket launches per year distributed among launch pads 0-A, 0-B, 0-C and Launch Pier 0-D. LFIC is the envelope liquid-fueled LV to be launched; and landed (RTLS); limit of 6 LFIC LV launches/RTLS landings per year. SFHC is the envelope solid-fueled LV to be launched. Limit of 12 SFHC LV launches per year. Horizontal launch and landing from Main Base Runway 04/22. Commercial human spaceflight.
Sounding Rockets / Suborbital Rockets	60 launches per year. The four-stage Black Brant XII is the envelope sounding rocket. Includes 5 launches per year of Minotaur III, the envelope suborbital vehicle.	No change.
Drone Targets and Missiles	30 drone target flights per year. The AQM-37 is the envelope drone target.	No change.
Fuel Types	Existing solid and liquid fuels evaluated in previous NEPA documentation.	Hybrid fuels; larger quantities of liquid fuels.
Static Fire Testing	Occurs at Launch Pad 0-A, Pad 2, and F-010. Propellant throughput governed by the 2010 MARS Regional Spaceport Air State Operating Permit and the 2010 Wallops Island State Operating Permit. The maximum amount of propellant from combined open-burns and static fire testing events is 30 metric tons (33.5 tons) for double-base fuel and 35 metric tons (38.3 tons) for composite fuel per year.	No change.
OB Area	The maximum amount of propellant from combined open-burns and static fire testing events is 30 metric tons (33.5 tons) for double-base fuel and 35 metric tons (38.3 tons) for composite fuel per year.	No change.
Projectile Testing	Testing cannot exceed 20 test missions per year. Powder and/or electromagnetically-propelled projectiles via electromagnetic railgun (EMRG) cannot exceed 250 combined firings per year.	Addition of Directed Energy.
Payloads	Multiple envelopes established in previous NEPA documentation.	No change in existing payloads.
Tracking and Data Systems	Data and tracking systems established in previous NEPA documentation.	Addition of Sonic Detection and Ranging.
Balloons	Balloons cannot be larger than 1,000,000 m ³ (40,000,000 ft ³); payloads cannot weigh more than 4,000 kgs (8,000 lbs) per flight. Meteorological balloons launched cannot exceed 886 per year.	No change.
AUVs/ASVs	The Theseus, International Submarine Engineering Limited's AUV is the envelope vehicle.	No change.

For both institutional support and operational components, use of an environmental checklist is the procedure by which a proposed project is reviewed to see if that project triggers additional NEPA analysis or falls within the envelope.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS PROCESS

The National Environmental Policy Act guides the environmental impact analysis.

Accomplished thus far:



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The NASA WFF Site-wide PEIS analyzed the potential effects of the proposed action alternatives on the following resources:

- Noise**
- Air Quality**
- Hazardous Materials/Toxic Substances/Hazardous Waste*
- Health and Safety*
- Water Resources**
- Land Use*
- Land Resources*
- Vegetation*
- Terrestrial Wildlife**
- Special-Status Species**
- Marine Mammals and Fish**
- Airspace Management*
- Transportation*
- Infrastructure and Utilities*
- Socioeconomics*
- Environmental Justice*
- Visual Resources and Recreation*
- Cultural Resources*

The measurable effects of past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions were analyzed on the resources in bold. The NASA WFF Site-wide PEIS includes a detailed wetlands cumulative effects analysis.

Your involvement and input are essential to the environmental impact analysis process.

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND THEIR ROLES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE-WIDE PEIS:



Federal Aviation Administration – Responsible for issuing licenses for operation of commercial space launch sites and commercial launch vehicles.



Federal Highway Administration – As a division of the Department of Transportation is responsible for undertaking design and oversight of the construction of the new Causeway Bridge and approach road.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA-NESDIS) – Wallops Command and Data Acquisition Station is a permanent tenant on the Main Base and may undertake additional operations or improvements to its existing infrastructure.



Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Responsible for issuing permits for proposed activities that have the potential for dredging or placement of fill in waters of the U.S.; also involved in design and oversight of WFF's Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program.



United States Coast Guard – Responsible for undertaking additional operations or improvements to its existing infrastructure, would issue a permit for the Causeway Bridge reconstruction, and assumes Captain of the Port Authority for clearing the launch range during operations.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Responsible for overseeing permits related to components of the Proposed Action that have the potential for dredging or placement of fill in waters of the U.S.; under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA has an obligation to review and comment on all Federal EISs.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Responsible for issuing incidental take statements and providing management of special-status species; partners with NASA on mutually beneficial projects related to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.



U.S. Navy, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) – Responsible for increasing existing research, development, test, and evaluation mission tempos and new missions.



U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) – Responsible for undertaking additional operations, improvements to infrastructure, and target launches at the Surface Command System Center, and providing oversight of the Virginia Capes Operating Area offshore of WFF.



U.S. Navy, U.S. Fleet Forces Command – Responsible for conducting pilot proficiency training missions at the Main Base airfield and Navy personnel training ship-board in the VACAPES OPAREA. WFF often supplies range services and target launches during these training exercises.



U.S. Air Force Space Command/Space and Missile Systems Center (AFSPC/SMC) – Responsible for increasing test and evaluation missions and increasing interest in using the Wallops launch range for further missions.



Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (Virginia Space) – In partnership with NASA WFF has expanded the development and operation of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport.

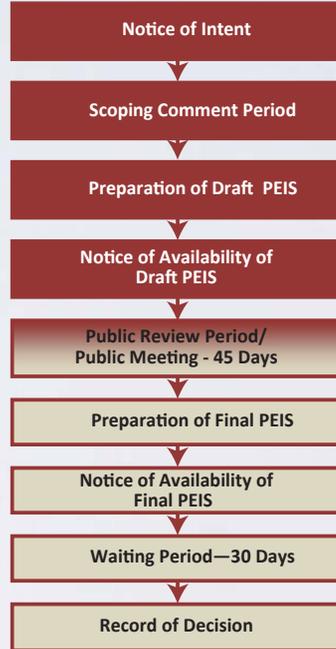
The National Environment Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes a framework for considering the scope of environmental issues and concerns early in the federal decision making process. Public involvement is an essential part of the process. Through involving the public and completing detailed environmental analysis, the NEPA process helps the decision-maker arrive at the best possible informed decision.

NASA sought input and suggestions from the public on proposed activities to be addressed in the Site-wide PEIS. Following an extensive data collection and research effort during the scoping period, the type and extent of impacts was identified and potential effects of proposed projects on resources was analyzed.

The Draft Site-wide PEIS has been made available for public view. WFF is seeking public comments on the analysis and findings presented in the Draft Site-wide PEIS during the 45-day public comment period. Oral comments will be accepted at the public meeting; written comments will be accepted throughout the public comment period. Responses to relevant comments on the Draft Site-wide PEIS and supplemental, modified, or improved analysis based on comments received, will be included in the preparation of the Final Site-wide PEIS.

Accomplished thus far:



How Can You Be Involved?

Your involvement in the decision-making process is important to NASA. There are many ways to submit comments on the Draft Site-wide PEIS:

1. Fill out a comment form at the public meeting and give it to a NASA representative
2. Visit the project website: https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis
3. Mail, email, or fax your comments:

Shari Miller
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Mailstop: 250. W
Wallops Island, VA 23337
Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov
Fax (757) 824-1819

To ensure consideration in the Final Site-wide PEIS, please provide your comments no later than June 18, 2018



FACT SHEET

MAY 2018

Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) is preparing a Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The Draft PEIS provides an impact assessment of the institutional support and operational missions and activities at WFF required to support existing and future program missions.



Why did WFF Need to Prepare a Site-wide PEIS?

For over 70 years, WFF has launched thousands of research vehicles in the quest for information on the flight characteristics of airplanes, launch vehicles, and spacecraft, and to increase the knowledge of the Earth's upper atmosphere and the near space environment. The flight programs and projects conducted by WFF range from small sounding and suborbital rockets, unmanned scientific balloons, unmanned aerial systems, manned aircraft, and orbital spacecraft to include to next-generation launch vehicles and small- and medium-classed launch vehicles.

In keeping with the principles, goals and guidelines of the 2010 National Space Policy, as updated by the 2013 U.S. National Space Transportation Policy and the 2017 Presidential Memorandum on Reinvigorating America's Human Space Exploration Program, WFF not only fulfills its own mission, but also provides unique services to NASA, the Department of Defense (DoD), academia, and the fast growing commercial space industry. WFF regularly provides launch support either directly or through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops Island.

In January 2005, NASA issued a Final Site-wide Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for activities at WFF. However, since then substantial growth has occurred and NASA, and its Cooperating Agencies have prepared multiple supplemental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. The Site-wide PEIS considers all reasonably foreseeable future actions proposed by NASA WFF and those proposed by its tenants and partners.

What is the Proposed Action?

The Site-wide PEIS evaluated the potential environmental impacts from institutional support projects and operational missions and activities under the Proposed Action that would meet NASA's need to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. The PEIS evaluated the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the level of activity at WFF would remain at present levels and within existing envelopes.

The Proposed Action would support at WFF:

- A number of facility projects ranging from new construction, demolition, and renovation identified in the WFF Facility Master Plan
- Replacement of the Causeway Bridge
- Maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island
- A North Wallops Island deep-water port and operations area
- Additional launch vehicle launch sites
- New NASA and DoD programs
- Expansion of the launch vehicle program with liquid-fueled intermediate class and solid-fueled heavy class launch vehicles
- Consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions
- Return of launch vehicles to the launch site
- Extension of Runway 04/22 to 10,000 linear feet



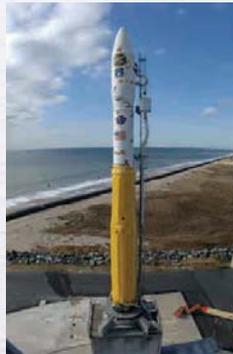
Causeway Bridge

Cooperating Agencies

NASA, as the lead agency for preparation of the Site-wide PEIS, requested the cooperation of several tenant and partner agencies. A cooperating agency is a government agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise regarding the environmental impact of a proposal.

The following federal and state agencies agreed to be cooperating agencies on the Site-Wide PEIS:

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service
- United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Navy, Naval Air Systems Command
- U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command
- U.S. Navy, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
- U.S. Air Force, Space Command/Space and Missile Systems Center
- Virginia Commercial Spaceflight Authority



Summary of Impacts

The Site-wide PEIS impact analysis focused on the resources potentially affected by implementing institutional support projects and operational missions and activities under the Proposed Action. The proposals considered in the Site-wide PEIS are at various stages of conceptual maturity; future tiered NEPA documents may be prepared for specific actions related to the Site-wide PEIS. Impacts under the No Action Alternative would remain as analyzed in previous NEPA documents. Below is a summary of impacts for a few of the proposals evaluated in the Site-wide PEIS.

Replacement of the Causeway Bridge

The Causeway Bridge is over 50 years old and is showing accelerated signs of deterioration. Vehicular traffic on the bridge, the size of transport trucks, and the frequency of "super-loads" crossing the bridge has increased significantly in the last decade. A new bridge would be constructed parallel to the existing bridge. Construction of the new Causeway Bridge would be anticipated to occur from 2019-2023; dismantling and removal of the old bridge may begin in 2023 and take approximately 9 months to complete. Because design plans are not currently available, site-specific NEPA analysis would be required prior to implementing this action. The following impacts would likely be experienced:

- Temporary increase in noise levels during the construction and demolition phases.
- Tidal wetlands and associated vegetation could be disturbed; the amount of disturbance would depend on the final bridge design.
- Marine special-status species, marine mammals, and Essential Fish Habitat may be affected; impacts would be dependent on final design.

Expanded Space Program

WFF has a unique opportunity to provide its services to the commercial launch industry upon which NASA, civil, defense, and academic customers are more frequently relying. The Expanded Space Program at WFF includes the potential for:

- Launch vehicle (LV) launches distributed among Launch Pads 0-A, 0-B, 0-C (proposed), or Launch Pier 0-D (proposed);
- Up to 6 liquid-fueled intermediate class (LFIC) launch LVs and return to launch site (RTLS) landings;
- Up to 12 solid fueled heavy class (SFHC) LVs;
- Horizontal launch and landing LVs from Main Base extended Runway 04/22; and
- Consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions.

The type of impacts that would be likely include the potential for: an increase in LV noise, sonic booms from horizontal landing LVs, temporary impacts to terrestrial wildlife and special-status species, and temporary road and waterway closures.

Each of the activities under the Expanded Space Program are in the planning stage; further NEPA analysis may be required in the future to fully evaluate the potential impacts.

Maintenance Dredging between the Boat Docks



Long-term sedimentation of the barge route from the Main Base Visitor Center to the North Wallops Island boat basin dictates the need for maintenance dredging to support the transfer of cargo that is too large for overland transport. The entire barge route would be dredged. The dredged material is expected to be unsuitable for

re-use or placement on nearby beaches; upland placement of the dredged material is to be determined in the future. As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis would be required in the future to fully evaluate the potential impacts that may include: temporary increase in noise levels during active dredging; short-term adverse impacts to water quality; and impacts to marine special-status species, marine mammals, and Essential Fish Habitat. In addition, waterway closures may be needed during active dredging resulting in short-term impact to boaters and fishermen.

Long-term impacts to tidal and non-tidal wetlands and vegetation impacts would be anticipated and would be mitigated accordingly.



North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area

A deep-water port on the north end of Wallops Island would provide barge access and berthing to offload large

LV components and related equipment. Three potential pathways are being considered.

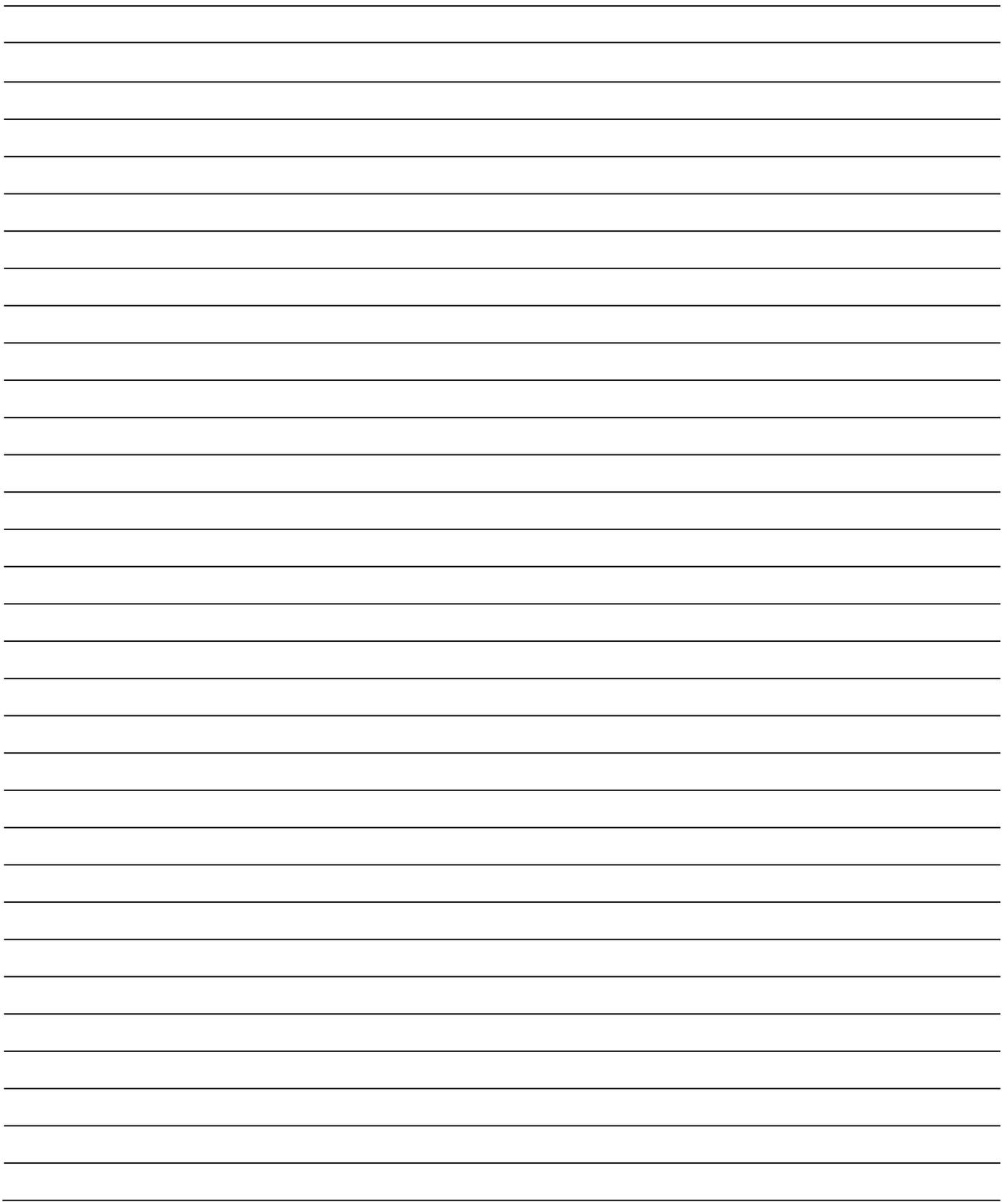
As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis for all three port pathways would be required and may involve: characterization of the materials to be dredged during any construction dredging; hydrodynamic modeling to assess the effects of any proposed new channel creation (Port Paths 2 and 3); assessment of proposed dredged material upland placement alternatives once the dredge volumes and expected maintenance volumes are predicted; and other potential impacts such as water quality, tidal and nontidal wetlands and vegetation impacts, and impacts to Essential Fish Habitat and special-status species.

**Public Meeting
Wallops Flight Facility
Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)**

Location: Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center

Date: May 23, 2018

Name	Affiliation	Address	Would you like a CD or Paper Copy of the Final PEIS?



PUBLIC MEETING TRANSCRIPT

(This page intentionally left blank)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NASA WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY
DRAFT SITE-WIDE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING
WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY VISITOR CENTER
MAY 23, 2018

COURT REPORTER: DANA M. PON

1 SHARI MILLER: All right. So we're going
2 on the record. It's now 8:08 p.m. NASA Wallops
3 Flight Facility held an open public meeting from 6:00
4 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23rd to take comments
5 on the Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact
6 Statement. One person from the public showed up to
7 our meeting, and no one left comments.

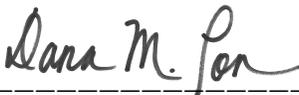
8 (The dictation into the record concluded
9 at 8:08 p.m.)

10
11 -----oOo-----
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA:

4 CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH:

5
6 I, Dana M. Pon, Notary Public in and for the above
7 county and state, do hereby certify that the foregoing
8 testimony was taken before me at the time and place
9 herein-before set forth; that thereupon the foregoing
10 testimony was later reduced by computer transcription;
11 and I certify that this is a true and correct
12 transcript of my stenographic notes so taken to the
13 best of my ability.14 I further certify that I am not of counsel to any
15 party, nor interested in the event of this cause.16
17 Given under my hand this 6th day of June, 2018.18
19 My commission expires September 30, 2018.20
21 22 _____
23 Dana M. Pon, Court Reporter
24 Notary Registration Number 320348
25

(This page intentionally left blank)

COMMENT RESPONSES

(This page intentionally left blank)

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
001	1	Comment noted.
001	2	Sections 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.7, 3.5.1.9, and 3.5.2.2.1 of the PEIS provide detailed discussions for the approach taken to expand and develop the launch range with consideration of sea-level rise.
002	1	Comment noted. See Section 3.15.2.2.
003	1	<p>As the land owner, NASA is authorized to construct new infrastructure and facilities only within the boundary of the installation.</p> <p>The following statement has been added to the end of Section 2.1: <i>“As such, this PEIS analyzes institutional and operational missions that could occur within NASA WFF’s property, managed airspace, and water resources. Although, as discussed in Section 3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, impacts of these actions may occur offsite, no offsite actions are proposed or analyzed in this PEIS.”</i></p> <p>The following statement has been added to Table ES-1, Table 2.6-2, and Section 4.1.5: <i>“As required by the 404(b)(1) guidelines, only the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) can be authorized through the permit process. To be the LEDPA, an alternative must result in the least impact to aquatic resources while being practicable.”</i></p> <p>The following paragraphs have been incorporated into Section 3.5.2: <i>“New infrastructure and facilities to support mission requirements on Wallops Island would be sited within previously disturbed areas, to the extent practicable. To reduce potential environmental impacts, BMPs and avoidance and minimization measures, as described for resource areas in Chapter 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences and in Chapter 4, Mitigation and Monitoring would be incorporated and implemented, to the maximum extent practicable under the Proposed Action. As required by the 404(b)(1) guidelines, only the LEDPA can be authorized through the permit process. To be the LEDPA, an alternative must result in the least impact to aquatic resources while being practicable.</i></p> <p><i>The in-water projects (i.e., Causeway Bridge replacement, barge route maintenance dredging, and North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and Launch Pier 0-D) described under the Proposed Action are analyzed as programmatic actions in that they are in various stages of conceptual maturity with varying levels of detail for discussion. Information for these projects is provided in as much detail as is currently available. As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction.”</i></p>

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
003	2	Comment noted. As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction.
004	1	Comment noted.
004	2	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction.
004	3	Comment noted. The following bullets have been added to Section 2.5.1.2, Maintenance Dredging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>assessment of proposed construction staging and/or stockpile areas</i> • <i>assessment of each proposed dredging method</i>
004	4	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of alternative upland dredge material placement sites will occur.
004	5	If thin layer application were an acceptable means of reuse, WFF would consult with the natural resource agencies (e.g., EPA and USACE); further NEPA analysis will be prepared that would describe the potential environmental impacts of this method of reuse.
004	6	As project planning for the proposed North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area become more developed, further NEPA analysis will be prepared that would describe potential environmental impacts of alternatives. The following bullets have been added to Section 2.5.1.2, North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>assessment of proposed construction staging and/or stockpile areas</i> • <i>assessment of each proposed dredging method</i> • <i>assessment of any ancillary facilities and/or roads which may be required for each alternative</i>
004	7	As project planning and design details for LV Launch Pad 0-C become more developed, further NEPA analysis will be prepared to fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts. PEIS Section 4.1.5 describes NASA's proposed mitigation measures to water resources for implementing water-related projects. These mitigation measures also include measures implemented by NASA to avoid and minimize impacts to the extent practicable on an ongoing basis as part of BMPs and agreed upon approaches with appropriate agencies, compliance with permit requirements, and adherence to various management plans mentioned in the Environmental Consequences sections in Chapter 3 of the PEIS.

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
004	8	Section 3.5.1.4 has been modified with the following clarifying statement: <i>“Perfluorooctane sulfonate/perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOS/PFOA), chemicals associated with firefighting foams, have been detected in the Columbia aquifer on the Main Base, including the FFTA. The extent of the PFOS/PFOA plume is currently unknown. NASA has developed a work plan to conduct a facility-wide investigation to better understand the extent of the plume.”</i>
004	9	Section 3.5.1.4 of the PEIS states four of the Town of Chincoteague water supply wells are constructed to withdraw water from one of the Yorktown aquifers; water quality in the underlying Yorktown aquifer has not been affected by contamination due to the presence of an aquitard, the geologic layer that prevents groundwater movement from the Columbia aquifer downward into the Yorktown aquifer.
004	10	In the event of a chemical or petroleum discharge into the stormwater system during construction, demolition, or RBR projects, NASA would implement stormwater sampling and analysis prior to releasing the stormwater.
004	11	Comment noted.
004	12	As project planning and design details for the replacement of the Causeway Bridge become more developed, further NEPA analysis will be prepared to fully evaluate the potential impacts. The following bullet has been added to Section 2.5.1.2, Causeway Bridge Replacement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>assessment of proposed construction staging and/or stockpile areas</i>
004	13	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis will be prepared to fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts of alternative material transfer sites.
004	14	The following paragraph found in Section 3.10.2.2.1 of the PEIS has been rephrased: <i>“There is the potential for disturbance to wetland habitat at the Mainland and Wallops Island under the Proposed Action (refer to Figure 2.5-4 and Figure 2.5-5 in Chapter 2 for specific locations of institutional support projects at the Mainland and Wallops Island). The permanent loss of natural habitat from new construction under the Proposed Action at the Mainland and Wallops Island would be approximately 5.0 ha (12.0 ac), as currently planned. Of this total, an estimated 2.0 ha (5.0 ac) would be wetlands. If the removal of wetland habitat were required, this would cause species in the area to be permanently displaced once the wetland is cleared and filled.</i>
004	15	The following statement has been added to Section 4.1.5, <i>“WFF is in the process of developing a wetland management plan. The plan would include avoidance measures and appropriate wetland mitigations to ensure no net loss of wetlands and would consider the potential impacts to protected species and high functional value wetlands. As the plan progresses, WFF would consult with EPA, USACE, and USFWS.”</i>

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
005	1	<p>As details of the maintenance dredging project becomes more developed, further NEPA analysis will be prepared to fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts prior to the issuance of permits or project initiation.</p> <p>Private oyster leases and public shellfish grounds have been included in the bulleted list of additional analyses that may be required for the Causeway Bridge replacement, maintenance dredging, North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and Launch Pier 0-D projects described in Section 2.5.1.2 of the PEIS.</p>
005	2	Comment noted.
005	3	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction.
005	4	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis for the Causeway Bridge replacement, maintenance dredging, North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, Launch Pad 0-C and Launch Pier 0-D projects will be prepared. Site-specific EFH assessments may be required along with consultation with NMFS to quantify any potential impacts to EFH from the listed projects.
06		No response or action required.
07		No response or action required.
08	1	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis for the Causeway Bridge replacement, barge route maintenance dredging, North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, Launch Pad 0-C and Launch Pier 0-D projects will be prepared. Site-specific EFH assessments may be required along with consultation with NMFS to quantify any potential impacts to EFH from the listed projects.
08	2	See Response #1.
08	3	See Response #1.
08	4	<p>As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction.</p> <p>The following text has been added to Section 4.1.5: <i>“For work that may increase vessel traffic, restrictions may be placed on the number of trips taken by each vessel and shallow draft vessels may be used.”</i> A new bullet has been added to Section 4.1.8 and Section 4.1.9: <i>“Restrictions may be placed on the number of trips taken by each vessel and shallow draft vessels may be selected for water-related projects.”</i></p>
08	5	Comment noted.
09	1	Comment noted. Section 3.5.2.2.1, Coastal Zone has been updated to reflect VDEQ’s concurrence.

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
09	2	Comment noted. Section 1.8.2 of the Final PEIS describes VDEQ's FCD public participation.
09	3	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction. NASA would comply with the CZMA federal consistency regulations. Should any of the proposed actions change substantially from the descriptions described in the Draft PEIS and FCD, NASA will consult again with agencies as appropriate.
09	4	Comment noted.
09	5	Comment noted.
09	6	The list of recommended practices has been included as bullets in Section 4.1.5.
09	7	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction. The FCD (Appendix G) in the Final PEIS has been amended to include the Causeway Bridge Replacement and Launch Pier 0-D projects under Subaqueous Lands Management.
09	8	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis for the Causeway Bridge replacement, barge route maintenance dredging, North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, Launch Pad 0-C and Launch Pier 0-D projects will be prepared. Site-specific EFH assessments may be required along with consultation with NMFS and VMRC to quantify any potential impacts to EFH from the listed projects.
09	9	NASA would develop site-specific erosion and sediment control plans for projects that have the potential to cause soil erosion. The site-specific plans would implement BMPs that are outlined in the facility's SWPPP and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
09	10	Section 4.1.2 has been amended to add the suggested dust suppression techniques.
09	11	Comment noted.
09	12	Comment noted.
09	13	Comment noted.
09	14	Comment noted.
09	15	Comment noted.
09	16	Comment noted.
09	17	Comment noted.
09	18	Comment noted.
09	19	Comment noted.
09	20	Comment noted.
09	21	Comment noted.
09	22	Comment noted.
09	23	The VDCR-DNH recommendation has been added as a bullet to Section 4.1.8.

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
09	24	Comment noted.
09	25	The recommendation has been added as a bullet to Section 4.1.8.
09	26	As project planning and design details become more developed, further NEPA analysis of projects identified in Table 3.0-2 of the PEIS will occur, along with all relevant consultation and permitting, prior to construction. NASA would consult again with agencies as appropriate.
09	27	The recommendation has been added as a bullet to Section 4.1.8.
09	28	The recommendation has been added as a bullet to Section 4.1.8.
09	29	The recommendation has been added as a bullet to Section 4.1.8.
09	30	Comment noted.
09	31	Sections 3.9.1, 3.10.1.3, and 3.10.1.3.3 of the Final PEIS have been updated.
09	32	While no shorebird colonies have been found on Wallops Island, WFF will continue to monitor for them. If shorebird colonies become established, consultation with USFWS and VDGIF would occur. WFF will continue to implement its Protected Species Monitoring Plan.
09	33	Comment noted. Refer to PEIS sections 4.1.8 and 4.1.9.
09	34	Comment noted.
09	35	Comment noted.
09	36	Comment noted.
09	37	Comment noted.
09	38	Comment noted.
09	39	The following statement has been added to Section 4.1.5: <i>“WFF is in the process of developing a wetland management plan. The plan would include avoidance measures and appropriate wetland mitigations to ensure no net loss of wetlands and would consider the potential impacts to protected species and high functional value wetlands. As the plan progresses, WFF would consult with EPA, USACE, and USFWS.”</i>
09	40	Suggested practices that had not been listed or discussed in Section 4.1.5 of the Draft PEIS have been added as bullets to Section 4.1.5 in the Final PEIS.
09	41	Comment noted.
09	42	Comment noted.
09	43	Comment noted.
09	44	Comment noted.
09	45	Comment noted.
09	46	Comment noted.
09	47	Comment noted.
09	48	Comment noted.
09	49	Comment noted.
09	50	Comment noted.
09	51	Comment noted.
09	52	Comment noted.
09	52	Comment noted.

Responses to Comments Received on the Draft Site-wide PEIS

Comment Document	Comment Number	Response
09	53	Comment noted.
09	54	Comment noted.
09	55	Comment noted.
09	56	Comment noted.
09	57	Comment noted.
09	58	Comment noted.
09	59	Comment noted.
09	60	Comment noted.

(This page intentionally left blank)

COMMENT LETTERS

(This page intentionally left blank)

From: Miller, Shari A. (WFF-2500)
To: [Charee Hoffman](#)
Subject: Fwd: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER
Date: Friday, May 04, 2018 11:16:15 PM

Shari Miller
Environmental Planning Lead
NASA WFF

Begin forwarded message:

From: o <bk1492@aol.com>
Date: May 4, 2018 at 11:11:04 AM EDT
To: <SHARLA.MILLER@NASA.GOV>, <AMERICANVOICES@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV>, <INFO@TAXPAYER.NET>, <MEDIA@CAGW.ORG>, <HUMANELINES@HSUS.ORG>, <INFO@PETA.ORG>, <INFO@IDAUSA.ORG>, <INFO@COK.NET> **Subject:**
Fwd: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

I OPPOSE THIS EXPANSION AT WALLOPS ISLAND. THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE, MARINE LIFE, PEOPLE, WATER USE, ETC ARE MAJOR AND THIS IS A DELICATE SITUATION, ESPECIALY WITH RISING SEA LEVELS. THIS IS NOT A SUITABLE SITE FOR EXPANSION. IT COULD BE AND WILL BE COVERED BY WATER IN A SHORT TIME. THIS PLAN IS TOTALLY WASTEFUL. THE SPENDING IS UNJUSTIFIED. THIS COMMETN IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. HOW CAN YOU NOT PAY ATTENTION THE CLIMATE AND RISING SEA WATERS. B KER.
BK1492@AOL.COM

1
2

Federal Register Volume 83, Number 87 (Friday, May 4, 2018)
[Notices]
[Pages 19839-19841]
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]
[FR Doc No: 2018-09469]

=====

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (18-039)]

National Environmental Policy Act; Wallops Flight Facility; Site-Wide

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for improvement of infrastructure and services at Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, and NASA's NEPA policy and procedures, NASA has prepared a Draft PEIS for the improvement of infrastructure and services at WFF. The Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Organization (FAA-ATO) and Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA-AST); the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA-NESDIS); the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); the U.S. Coast Guard; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); the U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA); the U.S. Navy, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR); U.S. Navy, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the U.S. Air Force Space Command/Space and Missile Systems Center; and Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (Virginia Space) have served as Cooperating Agencies in preparing the Draft PEIS as they either have permanent facilities or missions at WFF or possess regulatory authority or specialized expertise pertaining to the Proposed Action.

The purpose of this notice is to apprise interested agencies, organizations, tribal governments, and individuals of the availability of the Draft PEIS and to invite comments on the document. In partnership with its Cooperating Agencies, NASA will hold a public meeting as part of the Draft PEIS review process. The meeting location and date is provided under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION below.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit comments on environmental issues and concerns, preferably in writing, no later than forty-five (45) days following the publication of the EPA's Notice of Availability of the Draft PEIS in the Federal Register. Once known, this date will be posted on the project website at: https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis.

ADDRESSES: Comments submitted by mail should be addressed to Shari Miller, Site-wide PEIS, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Mailstop: 250.W, Wallops Island, Virginia 23337. Comments may

[[Page 19840]]

be submitted via email to Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov.

The Draft PEIS may be reviewed at the following locations:

- (a) Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague, Virginia, 23336 (757) 336-3460
- (b) NASA Wallops Visitor Center, Wallops Island, Virginia, 23337 (757) 824-1344

(c) Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomac, Virginia, 23301 (757) 787-3400

(d) Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox, Virginia, 23413 (757) 414-0010

A limited number of hard copies of the Draft PEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting the NASA point of contact listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. The Draft PEIS is available on the internet in Adobe[^{supreg}] portable document format at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis. The Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare the Draft PEIS, issued on July 11, 2011, is also available on the internet at the same website address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shari Miller, Site-wide PEIS, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Mailstop: 250.W, Wallops Island, Virginia 23337; telephone (757) 824-2327; email: Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov. A toll-free telephone number, (800) 521-3415, is also available for persons outside the local calling area. When using the toll-free number, please follow the menu options and enter the ``pound sign (#)" followed by extension number ``2327." Additional information about NASA's WFF may be found on the internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/home/index.html>. Information regarding the NEPA process for this proposal and supporting documents (as available) are located at https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-wff/site-wide_eis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WFF is a NASA Goddard Space Flight Center field installation located in northern Accomack County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The facility consists of three distinct landmasses-- the Main Base, Wallops Mainland, and Wallops Island. WFF operates the oldest active launch range in the continental U.S. and the only range completely under NASA management. For over 70 years, WFF has flown thousands of research vehicles in the quest for information on the characteristics of airplanes, rockets, and spacecraft, and to increase the knowledge of the Earth's upper atmosphere and the near space environment. The flight programs and projects conducted by WFF range from small sounding and suborbital rockets, unmanned scientific balloons, unmanned aerial systems, manned aircraft, and orbital spacecraft to next-generation launch vehicles and small- and medium-classed launch vehicles. In keeping with the principles, goals, and guidelines of the 2010 National Space Policy, as updated by the 2013 U.S. National Space Transportation Policy and the 2017 Presidential Memorandum on Reinvigorating America's Human Space Exploration Program, NASA is proposing to improve its service capability at WFF to support a growing mission base in the areas of civil, defense, and academic aerospace. One guiding principle of the National Space Policy is for Federal agencies to facilitate the commercial space industry. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, a commercial launch site on Wallops Island, is a real-world example of WFF's commitment to making commercial access to space a reality. Accordingly, it is expected that a commercial presence at WFF will continue to expand in the coming years.

The National Space Policy also instructs Federal agencies to improve their partnerships through cooperation, collaboration, information sharing, and/or alignment of common pursuits with each other. WFF supports aeronautical research, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs by providing other NASA centers and other U.S. government agencies access to resources such as

special use (i.e., controlled/restricted) airspace, runways, and launch pads. WFF regularly facilitates a wide array of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) research, development, testing, and evaluation; training missions, including target and missile launches; and aircraft pilot training. Similar to its forecasted commercial growth at WFF, NASA also expects an increase in DoD presence at WFF in the foreseeable future.

Finally, the National Space Policy directs NASA to fulfill various key civil space roles regarding space science, exploration, and discovery; a number of which have been priorities at WFF for decades. NASA's need to ensure continued growth while preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of services is a key component of facilitating future projects and new missions at WFF.

Related Environmental Documents

In January 2005, NASA issued a Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for its operations and institutional support at WFF. Since then, substantial growth has occurred and NASA, and its Cooperating Agencies, have prepared multiple supplemental NEPA documents including the 2008 EA/FONSI for the Wallops Research Park; the 2009 EA/FONSI for the Expansion of the Wallops Flight Facility Launch Range; the 2010 PEIS/Record of Decision for the Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program; the 2011 EA/FONSI for the Alternative Energy Project; the 2011 EA/FONSI for the Main Entrance Reconfiguration; the 2011 NOAA-NESDIS EA/FONSI for Electrical and Operational Upgrade, Space Addition, and Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Installation; the 2012 EA/FONSI for the North Wallops Island Unmanned Aerial Systems Airstrip Project; the U.S. Fleet Force Command's 2013 EA/FONSI for E-2/C-2 Field Carrier Landing Practice at WFF; the Navy's 2014 EA/FONSI for the Testing of Hypervelocity Projectiles and an Electromagnetic Railgun; the 2015 Supplemental EA/FONSI for Antares 200 Configuration Expendable Launch Vehicle at WFF; the 2016 EA/FONSI for Establishment of Restricted Area Airspace R-6604 C/D/E; the Navy's 2017 EA/FONSI for and the Installation and Operation of Air and Missile Defense Radar AN/SPY[hyphen]6; and the 2017 U.S. Air Force's EA/FONSI for the Instrumentation Tower on Wallops Island.

Need for Preparing a PEIS

Since the 2005 WFF Site-wide EA, WFF, NOAA-NESDIS, and the Navy have updated their Master Plans; which propose new facilities and numerous infrastructure improvements to enable a growing mission base. Additionally, during reviews of the post-2005 Site-wide EA NEPA documents, resource agencies have expressed concerns regarding cumulative environmental effects and a desire for NASA to consider all reasonably foreseeable future projects at WFF in a consolidated NEPA document. NASA determined that preparing a single Site-wide PEIS not only would assist in its decision-making process for future mission growth at WFF but also address concerns regarding cumulative environmental effects. Therefore, the Site-wide PEIS considers all reasonably foreseeable future actions at WFF; those proposed by NASA along with those proposed by its tenants and partners.

Cooperating Agency Actions

The Site-wide PEIS will serve as a decision-making tool not only

for NASA

[[Page 19841]]

but also for its Cooperating Agencies. Given the potential for their undertaking actions related to NASA's actions, each of these agencies has been involved closely in NASA's NEPA process.

Alternatives

The PEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's need to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of services. The planning horizon for actions in the PEIS is 20 years.

Currently under consideration are the Proposed Action and a No Action alternative. The Proposed Action would support a number of facility projects ranging from new construction, demolition, and renovation; the replacement of the Wallops causeway bridge; maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island; development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island; construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site; the introduction of new NASA and DoD programs at WFF; the expansion of the launch vehicle services with liquid-fueled intermediate class and solid fueled heavy class launch vehicles; and the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site. Under the No Action Alternative, WFF and its partners would continue the existing operations and programs previously discussed in the 2005 Site-Wide EA and the subsequent NEPA documents identified under Related Environmental Documents.

Public Meeting

NASA and its Cooperating Agencies will hold a public meeting to discuss WFF's proposed actions and to solicit comments on the Draft PEIS. The public meeting will be held at the WFF Visitor Center on May 23, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

NASA anticipates that the public will be most interested in the potential environmental impacts of each alternative on protected and special-status species, wetlands, noise, and socioeconomics.

In developing its Final PEIS, NASA will consider all comments received; comments received and responses to comments will be included in the Final PEIS. In conclusion, written public input on environmental issues and concerns associated with the improvement of infrastructure and services at WFF is hereby requested.

Cheryl E. Parker,
Federal Register Liaison.
[FR Doc. 2018-09469 Filed 5-3-18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7510-13-P

From: [Lory Ebron](#)
To: [Miller, Shari A. \(WFF-2500\)](#)
Cc: [Doug Taylor](#)
Subject: Comment Letter-Somerset County
Date: Monday, June 04, 2018 3:53:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Comment Somerset Cty PEIS.pdf](#)

Ms. Miller,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a comment regarding the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Attached is a scanned copy of our letter. The original letter will be mailed to your attention.

Regards,



Lory Ebron
Executive Aide | Commissioners Office
Somerset County Government
11916 Somerset Avenue Room 111
Princess Anne, MD 21853
www.somersetmd.us
lebron@somersetmd.us
Voice: (410) 651-0320 | **Fax:** (410) 651-0366

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain confidential information intended only for the use of the person named above and may contain communication protected by law. If you have received this message in error, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or other use of this message may be prohibited and you are requested to delete and destroy all copies of the email, and to notify the sender immediately at his/her electronic mail.

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853
TELEPHONE 410-651-0320, FAX 410-651-0366

COMMISSIONERS

RANDY LAIRD, PRESIDENT
CHARLES F. FISHER, VICE-PRESIDENT
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.
REX SIMPKINS
JERRY S. BOSTON



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-CLERK
RALPH D. TAYLOR

COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

June 4, 2018

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Draft Site-wide PEIS - Shari Miller
Mailstop: 250. W
Wallops Island, VA 23337

Re: Draft Site-wide PEIS

Dear Ms. Miller:

The Somerset County Commissioners appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Site-wide PEIS) for the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. Considering the proximity of this facility to Somerset County a majority of the environmental aspects assessed will have no direct impact.

Somerset County looks at potential growth at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility as a benefit. An increase in residential, commercial and industrial development could occur as the number of jobs increase. Some of this potential development could actually occur in Somerset County. Support of the nation's space, defense and energy needs is extremely important to its citizens as well as visitors. For this reason, the Somerset County Commissioners continue to support the critical role that the NASA Wallops Flight Facility plays.

Sincerely,

Ralph D. Taylor
County Administrator/Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 NORFOLK DISTRICT
 FORT NORFOLK
 803 FRONT STREET
 NORFOLK VA 23510-1011

June 14, 2018

Eastern Virginia Regulatory Section
 NAO-2017-1941

Shari Miller
 Environmental Planning Lead
 NASA Wallops Flight Facility
 Wallops Island, VA 23337

Dear Ms. Miller:

This letter provides the comments of the Norfolk District Corps of Engineers (USACE) in response to the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Preliminary Draft for which USACE is a cooperating agency.

Our comments on the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement are given in relation to specific topics as follows:

Offsite Alternatives: This alternative is not addressed in the PDEIS. Provide a statement on why all listed projects need to take place within the facility boundary and how staying within the boundaries will contribute to your preferred alternative(s) becoming the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). Only the LEDPA can receive a Department of the Army permit. | 1

Due to this PDEIS being site wide and not for one individual project, the information within is at too broad a level to comment on each individual project. Those projects impacting waters and/or wetlands regulated by USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403) will require additional NEPA documentation. | 2

As part of our public interest review and in accordance with the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, the Corps must evaluate all alternatives that avoid impacts to waters of the U.S. In addition to wetland and waters impacts, we must also consider public interest review factors such as land use, floodplain hazards and values, water supply and conservation, energy, water quality, safety, cost, economics, threatened and endangered species, historic and cultural resources, and environmental justice. In addition, navigation and potential effects to USACE Civil Works projects will be a primary consideration during permit review.

If you have any questions and/or concerns about these comments, please contact me via email at brian.c.denson@usace.army.mil or via telephone at (757) 201-7792.

Sincerely,



Brian Denson
Environmental Scientist,
Eastern Virginia
Regulatory Section



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION III
 1650 Arch Street
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JUN 1 B 2018

Ms. Shari A. Miller
 NASA Wallops Flight Facility
 34200 Fulton Street
 Building F-160/Room CI65
 Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

RE: Draft Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Wallops Island, Virginia (May 2018); CEQ 20180073

Dear Ms. Miller:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The Draft PEIS has been prepared by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to evaluate the environmental effects of implementing proposed projects that would support existing and future NASA goals and objectives.

NASA is proposing to implement a suite of new construction and demolition projects and new operational missions and activities that are needed to ensure continued growth at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. As a Programmatic NEPA document, this PEIS is broad in scope and will be followed by a series of site-specific NEPA documents, as appropriate. This Site-wide PEIS addresses the most reasonably foreseeable actions at WFF within a 20-year planning horizon, both proposed by NASA as well as its on-site tenant and partner agencies. The PEIS identifies a number of projects ranging from new construction, demolition, and renovation throughout the installation including several new mission activities which, together, comprise the Proposed Action. The PEIS also identifies a No-Action alternative. The impacts from the various activities considered in the PEIS under the Proposed Action vary from project to project and in some cases, may warrant additional, more focused analysis in the future as projects achieve conceptual maturity. The PEIS included responses to comments on earlier drafts of the document provided by EPA through our role as a cooperating agency for the WFF Site-wide PEIS.

As a way of evaluating NEPA projects and providing recommendations to the lead agency, EPA has developed a set of criteria for rating Draft Environmental Impact Statements. Based on this rating system, EPA has rated the Draft PEIS for the project as Environmental Concerns 1 (EC-1). This rating means that our review identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the Proposed Action or application of

1

mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. We understand that a Preliminary EIS may lack specific information based on the nature of the document and uncertainties of potential future actions; the information in the document is commensurate with the Programmatic study. We expect that further NEPA studies on relevant projects will include sufficient information to fully assess environmental impacts. Our rating is based on the impacts to high quality wetlands both from the Proposed Action (12 acres of high quality wetland impacts) and the No-Action Alternative (142 acres of high quality wetland impacts). The area in which WFF is sited contains an abundance of important wetland resources, such that a loss in habitat and function of the resources is virtually inherent in any activity that may encroach on previously undeveloped land. The importance of these resources are exhibited by the area's status as an Audubon Barrier Island Lagoon System Important Bird Area, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Site. These designations highlight the importance of this area to migratory and non-migratory birds, marine habitat restoration, and coastal resilience. The wetlands present in this area not only perform functions critical to human health, but also provide habitat for wildlife such as Birds of Conservation Concern which have been known to use these resources at WFF. Our review did identify some recommendations for environmental protection that we recommend be addressed prior to implementing the individual projects; technical comments can be found in the enclosure. A copy of our rating system can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/nepa/environmental-impact-statement-rating-system-criteria>

We appreciate NASA's efforts to consider and actively engage EPA in the development of the study and for the opportunity to contribute under our NEPA and Clean Water Act authorities. For any questions or assistance EPA can provide, please contact Aaron Blair of the NEPA review team at (215) 814-2748.

Sincerely,



Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader

Enclosure (1)

**Enclosure - WFF Draft PEIS
Technical Comments
EPA Region III**

Please find below specific technical comments, referenced by chapter. We would be pleased to discuss the recommendations at your convenience:

- 2-40:** Future NEPA analyses regarding maintenance dredging should include an analysis of each dredging method prior to selecting a method and dredged material placement site. | 3
- 2-42:** Any temporary or permanent confined disposal facility to hold and dewater dredged materials from the barge basins and/or entrance channels should not be sited within a wetland. If nearby a wetland, the proper erosion and sedimentation controls should be implemented. In addition, EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be consulted should dredged material planned to be used in a thin layer application. | 4
| 5
- 2-43:** As the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area is in very early stages of development, we suggest further NEPA study include analysis of all possible alternatives including environmental impacts from dredging and any ancillary facilities, as well as roads which may accompany a particular alternative. | 6
- 2-46:** Since little is known about proposal LV Launch Pad 0-C in its early stage of development, the potential to convert a large area of pervious surface to impervious, impacts to wetlands, water quality, birds of conservation concern, and aquatic species, we suggest further NEPA analysis beyond the PEIS. Since unavoidable impacts to wetland vegetation would be likely, we suggest early planning for mitigation of these wetland losses. EPA staff can be available to assist with mitigation planning. | 7
- 3-68:** The EIS states that the extent of the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) plume is currently unknown but that NASA has successfully completed active remediation of the contamination plume. These statements appear somewhat contradictory and it would be helpful if the current condition were clarified in the NEPA report. We recommend the Final PEIS and studies for forthcoming activities clearly state the status of the investigation of contamination. It is recommended that the potential groundwater, surface water or soil contamination be considered in any work plan or project design. We understand monitoring is in place, however, we suggest the plume extent of PFAS be considered in order to confirm that any future construction in the area will not influence the plume or facilitate its movement. Although the Town of Chincoteague wells located in the Columbia aquifer are no longer used for potable water, it would be helpful to state status of other drinking water supply. | 8
| 9
- 3-82:** The PEIS states that the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would identify all stormwater discharges at the site including "actual and potential sources of stormwater contamination". Please state if NASA will be monitoring stormwater for specific contaminants. | 10
- 3-82:** In order to comply with Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, EPA recommends consideration of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure technologies such as vegetative buffers and biofiltration when constructing facilities identified in the Proposed Action. | 11

3-82: Any construction staging sites or stockpile areas associated with the Causeway Bridge Replacement should not be located in a wetlands or waterbody. | 12

3-87: We recommend Material Transfer Sites be located in previously disturbed areas not adjacent to wetlands and proper best management practices (BMPs) implemented, as material that has yet to be de-watered could cause a sediment influx into wetlands or other ecologically sensitive areas nearby. | 13

3-152: This section of the PEIS states that the permanent loss of natural habitat from new construction under the Proposed Action at the Mainland and Wallops Island would be less than 0.4 ha (1.0ac). However, the proposed Launch Pad 0-C alone would impact at least 5 acres of wetlands, which are natural habitat. Wetland habitat should be considered 'natural habitat' and in the case of Launch Pad 0-C, impacts would be permanent. This would reduce the habitat of not only Special-Status Species, but also Birds of Conservation Concern which rely on marshland habitat. If impacts to wetlands were to occur, mitigation outside of the immediately impacted area may not commensurately benefit the species which are affected by the habitat loss, as mitigation opportunities on the island may be limited. For these reasons, we recommend wetland impacts be avoided and minimized. | 14

WHITE PAPER - A Report on the Historical Impacts and Protection of Wetlands at NASA Wallops Flight Facility: Many of the wetlands that will be impacted by the Proposed Action are of very high functional value according to the criteria established by Tiner (2011). The majority of impacted wetlands scoring 17 (18 is the highest value possible within NASA boundaries). We recommend that the Final PEIS discuss how NASA plans to use the results of the wetland functional assessment in their decision-making process when choosing sites for projects identified in the Proposed Action and for evaluation of mitigation opportunities and planning for potential impact of the Proposed Action. We recommend this assessment be used in developing avoidance measures, specifically for those areas which scored particularly high on the wetland assessment. We recommend consulting with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to determine how impacts to these areas may effect migratory and non-migratory birds including Birds of Conservation Concern. | 15



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
 2600 Washington Avenue
 Third Floor
 Newport News, Virginia 23607

Matthew J. Strickler
 Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull
 Commissioner

June 18, 2018

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
 Attn: Shari Miller
 Mailstop: 250.W
 Wallops Island, VA 23337

Re: Draft Site-wide PEIS
 Wallops Flight Facility

Dear Ms. Miller:

This will respond to the request for comments regarding the Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement prepared by NASA. Specifically the applicant has proposed new construction and updates to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility in Accomack County, Virginia that encompasses a 20-year planning horizon. We reviewed your submittal information and found that several pieces of the proposal have the potential to impact tidal wetlands, State marshlands, State subaqueous lands, in addition to both shellfish and finfish resources.

Please be advised that the dredging associated with the proposed barge route may impact private oyster leases as well as public shellfish grounds (Baylor). Placement of any dredge material on State-owned submerged lands or tidal wetlands will require a permit from the Commission or local wetlands board. Likewise, permits may be required for the Causeway Bridge replacement, development of the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and construction of Launch Pad 0-C, and Launch Pier 0-D.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

NASA Wallops Flight Facility

June 18, 2018

Page Two

Pursuant to §28.2-1200 et seq of the Code of Virginia, the Commission has jurisdiction over any encroachment in, on, or over the beds of the bays, ocean, rivers, streams, or creeks, which are the property of the Commonwealth. If any portion of the project involves any encroachments channelward of the mean low water line a permit may be required from our agency. Any jurisdictional impacts to state-owned submerged lands, tidal wetlands and/or coastal primary sand dunes and beaches will be reviewed by VMRC and the Accomack County Wetlands Board during the Joint Permit Application process pursuant to §28.2-1200 et seq, §28.2-1300 et seq and §28.2-1400 et seq of the Code of Virginia.

3

At this time, the Commission cannot provide extensive comments as details of the project are not finalized. When the true scope of the project is determined, the Commission would like both the project and final analysis to focus on avoiding or minimizing impacts to tidal wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), hard clam, oyster, blue crab, and summer flounder, in addition to any other species of ecological or economic importance to the Commonwealth. The Virginia seaside is an important habitat fostering growth and development of larval and juvenile species that drive recruitment to the Commonwealth's recreational and commercial tidal fisheries each year. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to provide further comments once the planning process is complete.

4

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Randal D. Owen

Randal D. Owen
Deputy Chief, Habitat Management

RDO/lra
HM

From: Hooks, Michael S. (WFF-011.0)[T-SOLUTIONS, INC.]
To: [Miller, Shari A. \(WFF-2500\)](mailto:Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov)
Cc: [Haag, John CIV SCSC, TD15](mailto:John.CIV.SCSC@nasa.gov)
Subject: Additional comments RE: Draft NASA WFF Site-wide PEIS
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 2:54:04 PM

Shari,

I've reviewed the WFF PEIS and the only comments I have are "great job" and "excellent work!"

v/r

Mike
Michael Hooks, CHMM CSP
Environmental Specialist
T-Solutions, Inc.
Surface Combat Systems Center
Bldg Q-29, Public Works Department
30 Battle Group Way
Wallops Island, VA 23337
[REDACTED]
☎ 757-824-7705
Fax: 757-854-2730

-----Original Message-----

From: Haag, John CIV SCSC, TD15
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Hooks, Michael S CTR SCSC, T-Solutions
Subject: FW: Draft NASA WFF Site-wide PEIS

We have provided input and are good with this, right?

Thanks,

John Haag
Public Works Officer
Wallops Island VA
(W) 757-824-7700
(C) 757-894-4745

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, Shari A. (WFF-2500) [<mailto:shari.a.miller@nasa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 12:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Haag, John CIV SCSC, TD15 [REDACTED]

From: Miller, Shari A. (WFF-2500)
To: [Charee Hoffman](#)
Subject: Draft NASA WFF Site-wide PEIS--NOAA and NESDIS Review Comments
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 4:02:30 PM
Attachments: [NOAA Review Comments for NASA Wallops Flight Facility--Draft PEIS 2018 0622.pdf](#)

From: John Gironda - NOAA Federal [mailto:john.gironda@noaa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Miller, Shari A. (WFF-2500) <shari.a.miller@nasa.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft NASA WFF Site-wide PEIS--NOAA and NESDIS Review Comments

Hi Shari,

NESDIS HQ and Wallops Command Data Acquisition Station have no further comments to the subject PEIS.

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices do have comments, and these are included in the attached PDF. We and NMFS thank you for the extra time you were able to offer us.

For issues related to the NMFS document, POCs are listed in the NMFS document.

b/r

-- John
A John Gironda III, P.E.
NESDIS Office of the CFO/CAO
Facility Management Branch
1335 E. West Hwy, Suite 7407
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-713-9208

"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity." President John Adams, June 1813

On Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 9:13 AM, Miller, Shari A. (WFF-2500) <shari.a.miller@nasa.gov> wrote:

John,

As VDEQ has a total of 60 days for CZMA review, we can extend another 15 days until July 3rd. Does that give NMFS enough time?

Shari A. Miller

Environmental Planning Lead
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337
(757) 824-2327
Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

RE: Comments on NASA Draft Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's (GARFO) Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) and Protected Resources Division (PRD) have reviewed the information provided in the draft site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) on Wallops Island in Accomack County, Virginia. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is proposing to implement a suite of new construction and demolition projects and new operational missions and activities at WFF to support a growing mission base while preserving NASA's ability to safely conduct its historical baseline operations. The PEIS addresses the most reasonably foreseeable actions at WFF within a 20-year planning horizon. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and diadromous fishery resources, we offer you the following comments pursuant to the authorities of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)

The Atlantic Ocean, Shelly Bay, Chincoteague Bay, Inlet, and Channel and its tributaries, and the surrounding coastal bays, creeks, and marshes have been designated essential fish habitat (EFH) for a variety of life stages of fish managed by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), and NMFS because these areas provide feeding, resting, nursery, and staging habitat for a variety of commercially, recreationally, and ecologically important species. Species for which EFH has been designated in the area of the proposed project include, but are not limited to, Atlantic butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*), scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*), summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), windowpane flounder (*Scophthalmus aquosus*), clearnose skate (*Raja eglanteria*), and winter skate (*Leucoraja ocellata*). The project area is also designated EFH for several Atlantic highly migratory species (tuna, swordfish, billfish, small and large coastal sharks, and pelagic sharks) including, but not limited to, sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*), smoothhound shark complex (Atlantic stock), albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) and sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*). The sand tiger shark has been listed as a Species of Concern by NOAA. The goal of listing a species as a Species of Concern is to promote proactive conservation efforts for these species in order to preclude the need to list them in the future. Furthermore, coastal inlets are designated as EFH for Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*), king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), and cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*).

1



The MSA requires federal agencies, such as NASA, to consult with us on any action or proposed action authorized, funded, or undertaken, by such agency that may adversely affect EFH identified under the MSA. This process is guided by the requirements of our EFH regulation at 50 CFR 600.905, which mandates the preparation of EFH assessments and generally outlines each agency's obligations in the consultation process. The level of detail in an EFH assessment should be commensurate with the complexity and magnitude of the potential adverse effects of the action.

1 (cont.)

Essential fish habitat is defined as, "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." For the purpose of interpreting the definition of EFH:

- "waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate;
- "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities;
- "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem;
- "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle.

The EFH final rule published in the Federal Register on January 17, 2002 defines an adverse effect as: "any impact which reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH." The rule further states that:

An adverse effect may include direct or indirect physical, chemical or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat and other ecosystems components, if such modifications reduce the quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects to EFH may result from action occurring within EFH or outside EFH and may include site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions.

The EFH final rule also states that the loss of prey may be an adverse effect on EFH and managed species. As a result, actions that reduce the availability of prey species, either through direct harm or capture, or through adverse impacts to the prey species' habitat may also be considered adverse effects on EFH.

Our EFH regulations also allow federal agencies to incorporate an EFH assessment into documents prepared for other purposes including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents provided certain conditions are met. If an EFH assessment is contained in another document, it must be clearly identified as an EFH assessment and include all of the following mandatory elements including: (i) a description of the action, (ii) analysis of the potential adverse effects of the action on EFH and the managed species, (iii) the federal agency's conclusions regarding the effects of the action on EFH, and (iv) proposed mitigation, if applicable. If appropriate, the assessment should also contain additional information, including: (i) the results of an on-site inspection to evaluate the habitat and the site specific effects of the project, (ii) the views of recognized experts on the habitat or species that may be affected, (iii) a review of pertinent literature and related information, (iv) an analysis of alternatives to the

action. Such analysis should include alternatives that could avoid or minimize adverse effects on EFH, and (v) other relevant information.

By letter date May 3, 2018, NASA indicated that additional future NEPA documentation and consultation with NMFS HCD would be required once information was known for various projects at WFF, including (1) the causeway bridge, (2) maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island, and (3) development of a deep-water port and operations area on the north end of Wallops Island. NASA indicated that consultation with NMFS HCD will commence on these projects once sufficient details of the proposed activities are available to conduct EFH analyses. We concur that the above-listed projects will require future EFH consultation. However, other actions including, but not limited to, work at the LV Launch Pad O-C complex, LV Launch Pier O-D, any dredging, placement of fill in the aquatic environment, or other activities that may adversely affect EFH, federally managed species, or their prey, will also require consultation with us once sufficient details become available on those actions. NMFS HCD staff area available to work with NASA in determining which proposed actions will require additional EFH consultation.

EFH assessments should be prepared for all actions that may adversely affect EFH, federally managed species and their prey, and should address the direct, indirect, individual, and cumulative effects of project elements. To fully evaluate proposed actions at WFF, information regarding the location, type, frequency, magnitude, and duration of impacts will be necessary as well as biological information characterizing the distribution, abundance, biomass, production and diversity of fish and invertebrates. Fishery-independent and -dependent surveys will be useful for evaluating project effects. Furthermore, thorough analyses of alternatives, avoidance and minimization measures, and proposed mitigation will be required to fully evaluate each proposed project. NMFS HCD staff is available to assist NASA in determining the level of detail needed for the EFH assessments for the individual projects planned at WFF as project specific details become available.

For a listing of EFH and further information useful for EFH assessments, please see our website at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat>. The website also contains information on descriptions of EFH for each species, guidance on the EFH consultation process including EFH assessments, and information relevant to our other mandates. Furthermore, a number of Fisheries Management Plans and amendments to those plans (e.g., June 2009 Amendment 1 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries Management Plan) address non-fishing activities, and provide a number of general EFH conservation recommendations, which can be included as avoidance and minimization measures.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), as amended in 1964, requires that all federal agencies consult with us when proposed actions might result in modifications to a natural stream or body of water. Federal agencies must consider effects that these projects would have on fish and wildlife and must also provide for improvement of these resources. Under this authority, we work to protect, conserve and enhance species and habitats for a wide range of aquatic resources such as shellfish, diadromous species, and other commercially and recreationally importance species that are not managed by the federal fishery management councils.

The waters and wetlands in and around the WFF also serve as important habitat for many NOAA trust resources that are considered under our FWCA authorities including both state and federally managed species and their forage including Atlantic butterfish, Atlantic sea herring (*Clupea harengus*), bluefish, black sea bass, striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), bay anchovies (*Anchoa mitchilli*) and other assorted baitfishes and shrimps (e.g., *Neomysis Americana*, *Mysidopsis bigelow*). Shellfish and crustaceans such as Atlantic bay scallop (*Aequipecten irradians*), quahogs or hard clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) and horseshoe crab (*Limulus Polyphemus*) can also be found within the project area.

The area is also important habitat for anadromous species such as alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), and striped bass. In addition to their commercial and recreational importance, many of these species are also ecologically important. Because landing statistics and the number of fish observed on annual spawning runs indicate a drastic decline in alewife and blueback herring populations throughout much of their range since the mid-1960s, river herring have been designated as Species of Concern by NOAA.

3 (cont.)

The 2012 river herring benchmark stock assessment found that of the 52 stocks of alewife and blueback herring assessed, 23 were depleted relative to historic levels, one was increasing, and the status of 28 stocks could not be determined because the time-series of available data was too short. The “depleted” determination was used instead of “overfished” and “overfishing” to indicate factors besides fishing have contributed to the decline, including habitat loss, habitat degradation and modification, and climate change. Increases in turbidity due to the resuspension of sediments into the water column during dredging and construction activities can degrade water quality, lower dissolved oxygen levels, and potentially release chemical contaminants bound to the fine-grained estuarine/marine sediments.

General Comments Applicable to our MSA and FWCA Authorities

Generally, we recommend projects at WFF are designed to affect the minimum amount of aquatic habitat necessary to accomplish a projects purpose. Activities that may adversely affect fishery habitat should be avoided when less environmentally harmful alternatives are available. For example, projects should avoid filling aquatic habitats, avoid temporary fills for construction purposes, and use only clean fill when filling is necessary. In many locations, permanent fill can be avoided or minimized by using upland areas, bridging areas, and using elevated permanent structures. Bridges and other elevated structures should be designed to avoid and minimize shading to marsh vegetation and other aquatic vegetation and algae. Additionally, new dredging should be avoided if other alternatives are practicable.

NMFS HCD looks forward to continued coordination with NASA as individual projects at WFF are developed. If you have any questions or need additional information on EFH or other NOAA trust resources, please do not hesitate to contact Keith Hanson in our Annapolis, MD field office at keith.hanson@noaa.gov or (410) 573-4559.

Endangered Species Act

The following endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction may be present in the project area:

Atlantic Sturgeon

Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) are present in coastal waters along the coast of Virginia as well as in and around Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, South Atlantic, and Carolina distinct population segments (DPS) of Atlantic sturgeon are endangered; the Gulf of Maine DPS is threatened. Adult and subadult Atlantic sturgeon from any of these DPSs could occur in the proposed project area. As young remain in their natal river/estuary until approximately age 2, and early life stages are not tolerant of saline waters; therefore, no egg, larvae, or juvenile Atlantic sturgeon will occur in the area.

Sea Turtles

Four species of federally threatened or endangered sea turtles under our jurisdiction can be found seasonally in the coastal waters of Virginia from late April – mid November of each year. The threatened Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS of loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), the endangered Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and the endangered leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles may be present along the Virginia coast. NMFS published the final listing of eleven Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) DPS on April 6, 2016. Eight DPSs were listed as threatened and three as endangered. The DPS found in U.S. Atlantic waters, the North Atlantic DPS, is listed as threatened. Due to the inability to distinguish between these populations away from the nesting beach, green sea turtles are considered endangered wherever they occur in U.S. waters.

Juvenile and adult turtles of all species of sea turtles may occur seasonally along Virginia shores though leatherback turtles would normally be found offshore in deeper waters. There are no established nesting beaches in Virginia and eggs and hatchlings will not be present within the proposed project area.

Cetaceans (Whales)

Five species of endangered large whales occur seasonally off the Mid-Atlantic coast of the U.S.: North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*).

However, of these five species, only two, the right and fin whales, are likely to occur closer to the Virginia shore in shallower waters. Sperm, blue, and sei whales are typically found in waters further offshore. Right whales are most likely to occur along the Virginia coast during seasonal migrations between November and April and fin whales are most likely to occur during seasonal migrations between October and January.

As project plans develop, we recommend you consider the following project best management practices and avoidance/minimization measures for all of the proposed project's activities that might affect sea turtles, sturgeon, and whales:

- For activities that increase levels of suspended sediment, consider the use of silt management and/or soil erosion best practices (i.e., silt curtains and / or cofferdams).
- For work that will increase vessel traffic within the project area, consider restricting the number of trips taken by each vessel and selecting shallow draft vessels.
- For any impacts to habitat or conditions that temporarily render affected water bodies unsuitable for the above-mentioned species, consider the use of timing restrictions for in-water work.

4 (cont.)

For additional guidance on the section 7 consultation process, technical resources and species information, please visit our website at:

<https://greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/section7/index.html> .

NASA will be responsible for determining whether the proposed action may affect listed species. If you determine that the proposed action may affect a listed species, you should submit your determination of effects, along with justification and a request for concurrence to the attention of the Section 7 Coordinator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. We also have a specialized e-mail account to expedite the process of submitting a request for consultation to us at nmfs.gar.esa.section7@noaa.gov. We encourage you to electronically submit any consultation requests directly to this e-mail account. After reviewing this information, we would then be able to conduct a consultation under section 7 of the ESA. If you have any questions regarding ESA or the section 7 consultation process, please contact Brian D. Hopper (410-573-4592; brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov).

5

cc: NMFS GARFO HCD – Greene, Hanson
 NMFS GARFO PRD – Hopper, Murray Brown



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 1111 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

July 2, 2018

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Site-wide PEIS
C/o: Ms. Shari Miller
Mailstop: 250.W
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

RE: Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Federal Consistency Determination, Wallops Flight Facility, Accomack County, (DEQ 18-073F).

Dear Ms. Miller:

The Commonwealth of Virginia has completed its review of the above-referenced proposal. The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents submitted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. DEQ is also responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal consistency documents submitted pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and providing the state's response. This is in response to the May 2018 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) and Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) (received May 3, 2018) submitted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the proposed action. The following agencies participated in the review of this proposal:

Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Health
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

In addition, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Historic Resources, Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Department of Aviation, Accomack County, and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission were invited to comment on the proposal.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) proposes a number of site-wide improvements at the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) in Accomack County, Virginia. WFF consists of three distinct landmasses:

- Main Base;
- Wallops Mainland; and
- Wallops Island.

NASA proposes to improve its service capability at WFF to support a growing mission base in the areas of civil, defense, and academic aerospace. The proposed action would support a number of facility projects to include:

- new construction, demolition, and renovation;
- the replacement of the Wallops causeway bridge;
- maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island;
- development of a deep-water port and operations area on North Wallops Island;
- construction and operation of an additional medium to heavy class launch site;
- the introduction of new NASA and Department of Defense programs at WFF;
- the expansion of the launch vehicle services with liquid-fueled intermediate class and solid fueled heavy class launch vehicles; and
- the consideration of commercial human spaceflight missions and the return of launch vehicles to the launch site.

The planning horizon for the action is 20 years.

CZMA FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CONCURRENCE

The DPEIS includes a Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) (Appendix G) that includes an analysis of the consistency of the proposed programmatic improvements on the enforceable policies of the CZM Program. Based on our review of the FCD and the comments submitted by agencies administering the enforceable policies of the CZM Program, DEQ concurs that the programmatic activities as currently described are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the CZM Program, provided all applicable permits and approvals are obtained as described below. In addition, in accordance with 15 CFR §930.39(c), DEQ recommends that NASA consider the impacts of the improvements on the advisory policies of the Virginia CZM Program found at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyReviews.aspx#advisory>.

Federal Consistency Public Participation

In accordance with Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §930.2, the public was invited to participate in the review of the FCD submitted for the proposal. Public notice of this proposed action was published in OEIR's Program Newsletter and on the DEQ website from May 11, 2018 through June 21, 2018. No public comments were received in response to the notice.

2

Supplemental Coordination

Pursuant to 15 CFR, Part 930, Subpart C, §930.46(a), NASA must submit supplemental information to DEQ for review and approval for the site-wide improvement projects that will affect any coastal uses or resources substantially different than described in the PEIS and FCD. Substantially different coastal effects include:

- substantial changes in the proposed activity that are relevant to Virginia CZM Program enforceable policies;
- significant new circumstances or information relevant to the proposed activity and the proposed activity's effect on any coastal use or resources;
- substantial changes that are made to the activity affecting enforceable policies and/or coastal uses or resources.

3

Accordingly, as detailed construction plans are developed and the site-specific environmental impacts of each project are identified, a project-specific Federal Consistency Determination must be submitted to DEQ for review and concurrence in accordance with the CZMA federal consistency regulations (15 CFR, Part 930, Subpart C, §930.30 *et seq.*) .

Other state approvals which may apply to project activities are not included in this concurrence. Therefore, NASA must ensure that site-wide improvement activities are implemented in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

4

NEPA CONCLUSION

Provided activities are performed in accordance with the recommendations which follow in the Environmental Impacts and Mitigation section of this report, the proposal described in the DPEIS is unlikely to have significant effects on ambient air quality, water quality, wetlands, important farmland, wildlife resources, forest resources, historic resources, and solid and hazardous wastes. It is unlikely to adversely affect species of animals, plants or insects listed by state agencies as rare, threatened, or endangered.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

1. Surface Waters and Wetlands. According to the DPEIS (pages 4-2 and 4-3), NASA would comply with required federal, state and local laws and regulations for impacts to surface waters and wetlands anticipated from proposed construction activities.

1(a) Agency Jurisdiction.

(i) Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) regulates encroachments on tidal wetlands pursuant to Virginia Code §28.2-1200 through 1400.

(ii) Department of Environmental Quality

The State Water Control Board promulgates Virginia's water regulations covering a variety of permits to include the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit regulating point source discharges to surface waters, Virginia Pollution Abatement Permit regulating sewage sludge, storage and land application of biosolids, industrial wastes (sludge and wastewater), municipal wastewater, and animal wastes, the Surface and Groundwater Withdrawal Permit, and the Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit regulating impacts to streams, wetlands, and other surface waters. The VWP permit is a state permit which governs wetlands, surface water, and surface water withdrawals and impoundments. It also serves as §401 certification of the federal Clean Water Act §404 permits for dredge and fill activities in waters of the U.S. The VWP Permit Program is under the Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection, within the DEQ Division of Water Permitting. In addition to central office staff that review and issue VWP permits for transportation and water withdrawal projects, the six DEQ regional offices perform permit application reviews and issue permits for the covered activities:

- Clean Water Act, §401;
- Section 404(b)(i) Guidelines Mitigation Memorandum of Agreement (2/90);
- State Water Control Law, Virginia Code section 62.1-44.15:20 *et seq.*; and
- State Water Control *Regulations*, 9 VAC 25-210-10.

1(b) Agency Findings.

(i) Virginia Marine Resources Commission

VMRC finds that it appears that some of the activities will require authorization from the agency and/or the Accomack County Wetlands Board based on information provided in the DPEIS. The Causeway Bridge replacement, barge route maintenance dredging, development of the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and construction of Launch Pad 0-C, and Launch Pier 0-D all have elements that will require permits.

(ii) Department of Environmental Quality

The VWP Permit program at the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office (TRO) finds that projects involving impacts to surface waters, including wetlands, may require a VWP permit. In addition, the VPDES program at DEQ-TRO finds that WFF is currently covered under an individual VPDES permit (VA0024457).

1(c) Requirements.

(i) Virginia Marine Resources Commission

NASA must submit a Joint Permit Application (JPA) to VMRC, which serves as the clearinghouse for permits issued by VMRC, DEQ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and local wetlands boards, for projects that are anticipated to impact jurisdictional surface waters and wetlands.

5

(ii) Department of Environmental Quality

Upon receipt of a JPA for proposed surface water impacts, DEQ VWP Permit staff will review the proposed project in accordance with program regulations and current guidance. In addition, future activities at WFF may require updates or changes to its VPDES permit. Construction may require mapping changes for the facility as required by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

1(d) Recommendations. In general, the DEQ VWP Permit program recommends that stream and wetland impacts be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. To minimize unavoidable impacts to wetlands and waterways, DEQ recommends the following practices:

- Operate machinery and construction vehicles outside of stream-beds and wetlands; use synthetic mats when in-stream work is unavoidable.
- Preserve the top 12 inches of trench material removed from wetlands for use as wetland seed and root-stock in the excavated area.
- Erosion and sedimentation controls should be designed in accordance with the most current edition of the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook. These controls should be in place prior to clearing and grading, and maintained in good working order to minimize impacts to State waters. The controls should remain in place until the area is stabilized.
- Place heavy equipment, located in temporarily impacted wetland areas, on mats, geotextile fabric, or use other suitable measures to minimize soil disturbance, to the maximum extent practicable.
- Restore all temporarily disturbed wetland areas to pre-construction conditions and plant or seed with appropriate wetlands vegetation in accordance with the cover type (emergent, scrub-shrub, or forested). The applicant should take all appropriate measures to promote revegetation of these areas. Stabilization and

6

restoration efforts should occur immediately after the temporary disturbance of each wetland area instead of waiting until the entire project has been completed.

- Place all materials which are temporarily stockpiled in wetlands, designated for use for the immediate stabilization of wetlands, on mats, geotextile fabric in order to prevent entry in State waters. These materials should be managed in a manner that prevents leachates from entering state waters and must be entirely removed within thirty days following completion of that construction activity. The disturbed areas should be returned to their original contours, stabilized within thirty days following removal of the stockpile, and restored to the original vegetated state.
- All non-impacted surface waters within the project or right-of-way limits that are within 50 feet of any clearing, grading, or filling activities should be clearly flagged or marked for the life of the construction activity within that area. The project proponent should notify all contractors that these marked areas are surface waters where no activities are to occur.
- Measures should be employed to prevent spills of fuels or lubricants into state waters.

6 (cont.)

2. State Subaqueous Lands. The DPEIS does not discuss potential project impacts to state subaqueous lands. However, the Federal Consistency Determination (PEIS, Appendix G, page G-9) states that dredging and construction at the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and Launch Pad 0-C, would require permits prior to implementing these actions.

2(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission regulates encroachments in, on or over state-owned subaqueous beds as well as tidal wetlands pursuant to Virginia Code §28.2-1200 through 1400. For nontidal waterways, VMRC states that it has been the policy of the Habitat Management Division to exert jurisdiction only over the beds of perennial streams where the upstream drainage area is 5 square miles or greater. The beds of such waterways are considered public below the ordinary high water line.

7

2(b) Agency Findings. VMRC finds that the Causeway Bridge replacement, barge route maintenance dredging, development of the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and construction of Launch Pad 0-C, and Launch Pier 0-D, all have elements that will require subaqueous lands permits from VMRC.

2(c) Requirements. NASA must submit a JPA to VMRC for projects that are anticipated to impact state subaqueous lands.

3. Fish and Shellfish Resources. According to the DPEIS (page 3-178), dredging impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH), fish, and shellfish could occur from direct entrainment (fish being captured by the dredge bucket), increased turbidity and subsequent sedimentation, direct habitat loss, and disturbance from noise and in-water

8

activity. Impacts to fish and shellfish would depend on the season during which the dredging occurred and the life stages of organisms that occupy the project area.

3(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission is charged with the management and regulation of marine resources. The Fisheries Management Division carries out current and long-term state policies effecting saltwater fisheries, both recreational and commercial, in Virginia's tidal waters. The Division's goal is to provide the maximum benefit and long-term use of the Commonwealth's finfish and shellfish resources through conservation and enhancement. The Commission's management programs are authorized or mandated under state and federal law.

8 (cont.)

3(b) Agency Findings. VMRC notes that the DPEIS (Appendix G) states that dredging may affect existing oyster ground leases and wild shellfish along the barge route. Also, the driving of pilings and dredging may adversely impact marine mammals and fisheries.

3(c) Requirement. NASA must coordinate with VMRC on projects that are anticipated to impact fish and shellfish resources.

4. Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management. According to the PEIS (page 4-4), site specific erosion and sediment control plans would be developed and utilized to ensure that soil erosion during construction is minimal. These plans would implement best management practices (BMPs) that are outlined in the facility's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. These BMPs could include using silt fencing; soil stabilization blankets; and matting construction entrances, material laydown areas, and around areas of land disturbance during construction. Bare soils would be vegetated after construction to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff velocities.

4(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The DEQ Office of Stormwater Management (OSWM) administers the following laws and regulations governing construction activities:

- Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control (ECS) Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 *et seq.*) and *Regulations* (9 VAC 25-840);
- Virginia Stormwater Management Act (§ 62.1-44.15:24 *et seq.*);
- *Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Regulation* (9 VAC 25-870); and
- 2014 General Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities (9 VAC 25-880).

In addition, DEQ is responsible for the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities related to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and construction activities for the control of stormwater discharges from MS4s and land disturbing activities under the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (9 VAC 25-890-40).

4(b) Requirements. DEQ-OSWM did not respond to DEQ's request for comments. However, based on previous responses to similar projects, regulatory guidance for the control of non-point source pollution is presented below.

(i) *Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Plans*

NASA and its authorized agents conducting regulated land-disturbing activities on private and public lands in the state must comply with the *Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law and Regulations (VESCL&R)* and *Virginia Stormwater Management Law and Regulations (VSWML&R)*, including coverage under the general permit for stormwater discharge from construction activities, and other applicable federal nonpoint source pollution mandates (e.g. Clean Water Act-Section 313, federal consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act). Clearing and grading activities, installation of staging areas, parking lots, roads, buildings, utilities, borrow areas, soil stockpiles, and related land-disturbing activities that result in the total land disturbance of equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet would be regulated by *VESCL&R*. Accordingly, the applicant must prepare and implement an erosion and sediment control (ESC) plan to ensure compliance with state law and regulations. The ESC plan is submitted to DEQ-TRO, the review authority for federal projects, for review for compliance. The applicant is ultimately responsible for achieving project compliance through oversight of on-site contractors, regular field inspection, prompt action against non-compliant sites, and other mechanisms consistent with agency policy. [Reference: *VESCL 62.1-44.15 et seq.*]

(ii) *Virginia Stormwater Management Program General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (VAR10)*

The operator or owner of a construction project involving land-disturbing activities equal to 1 acre is required to register for coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities and develop a project-specific SWPPP. The SWPPP must be prepared prior to submission of the registration statement for coverage under the general permit and the SWPPP must address water quality and quantity in accordance with the *VSMP Permit Regulations*. General information and registration forms for the General Permit are available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/StormwaterManagement/VSMPPPermits/ConstructionGeneralPermit.aspx>. [Reference: *Virginia Stormwater Management Act 62.1-44.15 et seq.*] *VSMP Permit Regulations 9 VAC 25-870-10 et seq.*]

5. Air Emissions. According to the DPEIS (page 4-2), construction activities related to institutional support projects have the potential to impact air quality due to increased emissions from construction equipment and fugitive particle emissions. During construction activities, BMPs would be implemented in order to mitigate all construction-related emissions and may include engine idling limitations, lower speed limits, traffic rerouting, and dust suppression techniques.

5(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The DEQ Air Division, on behalf of the State Air Pollution Control Board, is responsible for developing regulations that implement Virginia's Air Pollution Control Law (Virginia Code §10.1-1300 et seq.). DEQ is charged with carrying out mandates of the state law and related regulations as well as Virginia's federal obligations under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990. The objective is to protect and enhance public health and quality of life through control and mitigation of air pollution. The division ensures the safety and quality of air in Virginia by monitoring and analyzing air quality data, regulating sources of air pollution, and working with local, state and federal agencies to plan and implement strategies to protect Virginia's air quality. The appropriate DEQ regional office is directly responsible for the issuance of necessary permits to construct and operate all stationary sources in the region as well as monitoring emissions from these sources for compliance.

The Air Division regulates emissions of air pollutants from industries and facilities and implements programs designed to ensure that Virginia meets national air quality standards. The most common regulations associated with major State projects are:

- Open burning: 9 VAC 5-130 *et seq.*
- Fugitive dust control: 9 VAC 5-50-60 *et seq.*
- Permits for fuel-burning equipment: 9 VAC 5-80-1100 *et seq.*

5(b) Agency Findings. According to the DEQ Air Division, the project site is located in a designated ozone attainment area.

5(c) Recommendation. The DEQ recommends that NASA take all reasonable precautions to limit emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), principally by controlling or limiting the burning of fossil fuels.

5(d) Requirements.

(i) Fugitive Dust

During construction, fugitive dust must be kept to a minimum by using control methods outlined in 9 VAC 5-50-60 *et seq.* of the *Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution*. These precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use, where possible, of water or chemicals for dust control;
- Installation and use of hoods, fans, and fabric filters to enclose and vent the handling of dusty materials;
- Covering of open equipment for conveying materials; and
- Prompt removal of spilled or tracked dirt or other materials from paved streets and removal of dried sediments resulting from soil erosion.

(ii) Open Burning

Should the project change to include the open-burning of construction or demolition material, or use of special incineration devices, this activity must meet the requirements under 9 VAC 5-130 *et seq.* of the *Regulations* for open burning, and may require a permit. The *Regulations* provide for, but do not require, the local adoption of a model ordinance concerning open burning. The applicant should contact Accomack County fire officials to determine what local requirements, if any, exist.

11

(iii) Fuel Burning Equipment

The installation of fuel burning equipment (e.g. boilers and generators), may require permitting from DEQ prior to beginning construction of the facility (9 VAC 5-80, Article 6, Permits for New and Modified Sources). The applicant should contact DEQ-TRO for guidance on whether this provision applies.

12

For additional information regarding air comments, contact the DEQ Office of Air Data Analysis, Kotur Narasimhan at (804) 698-4415.

6. Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. The DPEIS does not discuss potential project impacts to Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. However, the Federal Consistency Determination (PEIS, Appendix G, page G-9) states that the Proposed Action would not include land development activities that would impact the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries. In addition, although Accomack County has adopted the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act restrictions for its seaside riparian areas, WFF is specifically excluded from this overlay area.

6(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The DEQ Office of Local Government Programs (OLGP) administers the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:67 *et seq.*) and *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations* (9 VAC 25-830-10 *et seq.*). Each Tidewater locality must adopt a program based on the Bay Act and *Regulations*. The Act and *Regulations* recognize local government responsibility for land use decisions and are designed to establish a framework for compliance without dictating precisely what local programs must look like. Local governments have flexibility to develop water quality preservation programs that reflect unique local characteristics and embody other community goals. Such flexibility also facilitates innovative and creative approaches in achieving program objectives. The regulations address nonpoint source pollution by identifying and protecting certain lands called Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. The regulations use a resource-based approach that recognizes differences between various land forms and treats them differently.

6(b) Agency Findings. DEQ-OLGP finds that proposed activities are located in the Atlantic Ocean watershed and is outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Therefore, there are no applicable requirements under the *Chesapeake Bay*

13

Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations.

For additional information, contact DEQ-OLGP, Rachel Hamm at (804) 698-4128.

7. Solid and Hazardous Wastes and Hazardous Materials. According to the DPEIS (page 4-2), the WFF Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP), developed by NASA to meet the requirements of 40 CFR Part 112 (Oil Pollution Prevention and Response), 40 CFR Part 265 Subparts C and D (Hazardous Waste Contingency Plan), and 9 VAC 25-91-10 (Oil Discharge Contingency Plan), serves as the facility's primary guidance document for the prevention and management of oil, hazardous material, and hazardous waste releases. For those projects involving hazardous materials, toxic substances, and hazardous waste, the ICP outlines procedures for dealing with hazardous materials and hazardous waste and would be implemented in all aspects of the Proposed Action in order to mitigate potential impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous waste.

7(a) Agency Jurisdiction. On behalf of the Virginia Waste Management Board, the DEQ Division of Land Protection and Revitalization (DEQ-DLPR) is responsible for carrying out the mandates of the Virginia Waste Management Act (Virginia Code §10.1-1400 *et seq.*), as well as meeting Virginia's federal obligations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund. DEQ-DLPR also administers laws and regulations on behalf of the State Water Control Board governing Petroleum Storage Tanks (Virginia Code §62.1-44.34:8 *et seq.*), including Aboveground Storage Tanks (9 VAC 25-91 *et seq.*) and Underground Storage Tanks (9 VAC 25-580 *et seq.* and 9 VAC 25-580-370 *et seq.*), also known as 'Virginia Tank Regulations', and § 62.1-44.34:14 *et seq.* which covers oil spills.

Virginia:

- Virginia Waste Management Act, Virginia Code § 10.1-1400 *et seq.*
- *Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations*, 9 VAC 20-81 (9 VAC 20-81-620 applies to asbestos-containing materials)
- *Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations*, 9 VAC 20-60 (9 VAC 20-60-261 applies to lead-based paints)
- *Virginia Regulations for the Transportation of Hazardous Materials*, 9 VAC 20-110.

Federal:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S. Code sections 6901 *et seq.*
- U.S. Department of Transportation *Rules for Transportation of Hazardous Materials*, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 107
- Applicable rules contained in Title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*.

7(b) Agency Findings. DLPR staff conducted a search (2,000-foot radius) of solid and hazardous waste databases (including petroleum releases) to identify waste sites in close proximity to the project corridor. The search identified 32 sites in proximity to the project corridor which might impact the project. In addition, two waste sites of possible concern were located in the zip code of the project area. See DLPR detailed comments attached for additional information.

14

7(c) Agency Recommendations.

(i) Hazardous Waste Sites

Additional information on identified RCRA and CERCLA hazardous waste sites can be accessed from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) websites at:

- <https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/>,
- <https://rcrainfopreprod.epa.gov/rcrainfoweb/action/main-menu/view>, and
- <https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

(ii) Petroleum Release Sites

Additional information on identified petroleum release sites may be obtained by accessing DEQ's Pollution Complaint (PC) cases (see attached memo). It is recommended that the Airport evaluated these files to establish the exact location, nature and extent of the petroleum releases and their potentials to impact the proposed project. Contact the Tanks Program at DEQ-TRO, (757) 518-2115, for further information about the PC cases.

15

(iii) Pollution Prevention

DEQ encourages all construction projects and facilities to implement pollution prevention principles, including the reduction, reuse, and recycling of all solid wastes generated. All generation of hazardous wastes should be minimized and handled appropriately.

16

7(d) Requirements.

(i) Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

Any soil, sediment or groundwater that is suspected of contamination or wastes that are generated must be tested and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All construction waste must be characterized in accordance with the *Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations* prior to management at an appropriate facility.

17

(ii) Petroleum Contamination

If evidence of a petroleum release is discovered during construction, it must be reported to DEQ-TRO in accordance with Virginia Code § 62.1-44.34.8 through 9 and 9 VAC 25-580-10 *et seq.* Petroleum-contaminated soils and groundwater that is generated during project implementation must be characterized and disposed of properly.

18

(iii) Petroleum Storage Tanks

The removal, relocation or closure of any regulated petroleum storage tanks, either an aboveground storage tank (AST) or an underground storage tank (UST), must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Tank Regulations 9 VAC 25-91-10 *et seq.* (AST) and/or 9 VAC 25-580-10 *et seq.* (UST). Documentation must be submitted DEQ-TRO.

19

The installation and operation of regulated petroleum ASTs or USTs must be conducted in accordance with 9 VAC 25-91-10 *et seq.* and/or 9 VAC 25-580-10 *et seq.*

20

The installation and use of ASTs with a capacity of greater than 660 gallons for temporary fuel storage (>120 days) during construction must follow the requirements in 9 VAC 25-91-10 *et seq.*

For additional information, contact DEQ-DLPR, Katy Dacey at (804) 698-4274.

8. Natural Heritage Resources. According to the DPEIS (page 3-150), the Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage has identified five Conservation Sites at WFF, including North Wallops Island and North Assawoman/South Wallops Island on Wallops Island; Little Mosquito Creek and Wallops Main Base Airfield Swale on the Main Base; and Wallops Island Causeway Marshes on the Mainland and west side of central Wallops Island. The two Conservation Sites most likely affected by the actions are the 1,600 acre Wallops Island Causeway Marshes, and the approximately 100 acre North Assawoman/South Wallops Island site.

8(a) Agency Jurisdiction.

(i) The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Division of Natural Heritage (DNH)

DNH's mission is conserving Virginia's biodiversity through inventory, protection and stewardship. The Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (Virginia Code §10.1-209 through 217), authorizes DCR to maintain a statewide database for conservation planning and project review, protect land for the conservation of biodiversity, and protect and ecologically manage the natural heritage resources of Virginia (the habitats

Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Improvements
NASA DPEIS/FCD, DEQ 18-073F

of rare, threatened and endangered species, significant natural communities, geologic sites, and other natural features).

(ii) The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

The Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act of 1979 (Virginia Code Chapter 39 §3.1-1020 through 1030) authorizes VDACS to conserve, protect and manage endangered and threatened species of plants and insects. Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between VDACS and the DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species.

8(b) Agency Findings.

(i) Conservation Sites

According to DCR-DNH, the following Conservation Sites are located within the project sites: North Wallops Island, Little Mosquito Creek, Wallops Island Seeps, Wallops Island Causeway Marshes, and Assawoman Island. Conservation sites are tools for representing key areas of the landscape that warrant further review for possible conservation action because of the natural heritage resources and habitat they support. See Table 1 (attached) for a list of natural heritage resources that are associated with these conservation sites. Many of the proposed projects have the potential to impact these natural heritage resources.

21

(ii) State Natural Area Preserves

DCR files do not indicate the presence of any State Natural Area Preserves under the agency's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

22

8(c) Recommendations. DCR-DNH recommends the following:

- Coordinate with DCR-DNH as specific projects are planned, to determine if surveys are needed and potential impacts to natural heritage resources. 23
- Enter into a data license agreement with DCR-DNH, similar to a 2010 agreement, so that WFF can incorporate quarterly updates of natural heritage information into their facility planning process. 24
- Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, to ensure compliance with protected species legislation due to the legal status of some of the species associated with the conservation sites. 25
- Contact DCR-DNH to secure updated information on natural heritage resources if the scope of the proposal changes and/or six months has passed before it is implemented. New and updated information is continually added to the Biotics Data System. 26

9. Wildlife Resources and Protected Species. According to the DPEIS (page 4-4), NASA is considering the adoption of a variety of mitigation strategies for the protection of special status species, included but not limited to: the installation of “turtle friendly” lighting and shielding; time-of-day and seasonal restrictions of activities; adherence to dredging guidelines set forth by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Virginia; beach surveys in accordance with the WFF Protected Species Monitoring Plan; observance of a 660-foot buffer around bald eagle nest sites and coordination with USFWS; and conducting surveys and restrict tree removal activities between June 1 to July 31 to reduce impacts to the Northern long-eared bat.

9(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), as the Commonwealth’s wildlife and freshwater fish management agency, exercises enforcement and regulatory jurisdiction over wildlife and freshwater fish, including state- or federally-listed endangered or threatened species, but excluding listed insects (Virginia Code, Title 29.1). DGIF is a consulting agency under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S. Code §661 *et seq.*) and provides environmental analysis of projects or permit applications coordinated through DEQ and several other state and federal agencies. DGIF determines likely impacts upon fish and wildlife resources and habitat, and recommends appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for those impacts. For more information, see the DGIF website at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

9(b) Agency Findings. DGIF is concerned that sites such as Wallops, located along the Atlantic Ocean, are prone to significant shoreline and other habitat changes, changes that are likely to increase in scope in the coming decades. As sands shift and habitats migrate over this extended period of time, wildlife, including listed species, may not be provided the protection required.

DGIF documents the following listed and/or tiered wildlife from Wallops Mainland, Wallops Island, and nearby environs:

(i) Listed Species

- Federal-listed Endangered and state-listed Endangered leatherback sea turtle
- Federal-listed Endangered Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle
- Federal-listed Threatened and state-listed Threatened loggerhead sea turtle
- Federal-listed Threatened green turtle
- Federal-listed Threatened red knot
- Federal-listed Threatened piping plover
- State-listed Endangered Wilson’s plover
- State-listed Threatened peregrine falcon
- State-listed Threatened gull-billed tern

(ii) Wildlife Action Plan Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Northern diamond-backed terrapins (Tier IIa)
- Glossy ibis (Tier Ia)
- Snowy egrets (Tier IIa)
- Little blue herons (Tier IIa)
- Black skimmers (Tier IIa)
- Common terns (Tier IIa)

DGIF documents a number of waterbird colonies, many containing one or more of the avian species listed above, from Wallops Island and associated islands, including nearby the barge route that is proposed for dredging. In addition, a number of bald eagle nests have been documented from this area over the years. Finally, sea turtles are known from the installation, breeding on the beaches that form the eastern boundary of the facility. See www.bewildvirginia.org for more information on species of greatest conservation need.

9(c) Recommendations.

(i) Coordination and Documentation

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with DGIF, USFWS and NMFS on projects proposed to impact undisturbed ground and wildlife habitats, and/or projects that build upwards impacting migratory flyways and foraging spaces for birds and bats. | 27 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct biological monitoring on site each year, in close coordination with DGIF, NMFS, and the USFWS, to ensure that effective monitoring protocols are followed and that participants are appropriately permitted to perform the work, if necessary. | 28 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop updated maps of documented species and the habitats that support them each year, and provide these maps to WFF management and staff so that planning around protection of documented wildlife species and resources can occur. | 29
30 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to the protective/mitigation measures contained within the DPEIS. • Update the DPEIS to reflect that Upland sandpipers are no longer listed as threatened in Virginia. | 31 |

(ii) Protection of Resources Under State Jurisdiction

DGIF offers the following recommendations for the protection of resources under its jurisdiction, in addition to recommendations in the DPEIS, as development plans for the installation move forward.

Waterbird Colonies and Beach Nesting Birds

- | | |
|---|----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor shorebird/waterbird colonies and nest sites on Wallops Mainland and | 32 |
|---|----|

Wallops Island each breeding season and map documented colonies and nest sites.

- Conduct no significant land development or timbering activities within 0.5-mile of a documented colony/nest site from March 15 through August 31 of any year, or when the last brood fledges as determined by monitoring activities.
- Maintain plants or enhance undisturbed a naturally vegetated buffer of at least 500 feet around any documented waterbird colonies (not beach nest sites). This provides the colony with a line-of-sight and habitat buffer, providing nesting activity protection as well as habitat protection to ensure suitability for future nesting seasons.

32
(cont.)

Sea Turtles

- Monitor beach habitats each nesting season to determine the location of any nesting sea turtles on installation grounds. Once identified, the beach should be excluded from activity until monitoring has confirmed the last nest has hatched.
- Suspend work on beaches known to have supported nesting from May 1- November 15, if surveys cannot be performed during any given year.
- Suspend dredging by hydraulic hopper in nearby waters from April 1 through November 30 of any year.
- Coordinate with the USFWS and NMFS regarding the protection of sea turtles.

33

Peregrine Falcons

- Avoid significant human activity within 600 feet of a nest/nest box during the nesting season from February 15 through July 15 of any year.
- Coordinate with DGIF regarding any proposed modification of natural habitats and/or man-made structures currently supporting the species.

34

Sea Mammals

- Adhere to the mitigation measures included within the DPEIS and coordinate with NMFS and USFWS regarding protection of sea mammals.

35

Bats

- Adhere to the mitigation measures in the DPEIS, including adherence to a time-of-year restriction on tree clearing from June 1-July 31 of any year, to protect northern long eared bats.
- Coordinate with DGIF and USFWS regarding tree clearing on site, particularly if NASA cannot adhere to the time-of-year restriction.
- Consider impacts upon foraging and migrating bats associated with projects resulting in flyway impediments.

36

Bald Eagles

- Adhere to the mitigation measures included within the DPEIS, including maintenance of an undisturbed buffer around the nest site and continued nest monitoring.

37

(iii) General Protection of Wildlife Resources

DGIF offers the following comments about development activities, to minimize overall impacts to wildlife and natural resources

- Avoid and minimize impacts to undisturbed forest, wetlands, and streams to the fullest extent practicable. Avoidance and minimization may include relocating stream channels as opposed to filling or channelizing, as well as using, and incorporating into the development plan, a natural stream channel design and wooded buffers.
- Maintain undisturbed naturally vegetated buffers of at least 100 feet in width around all onsite wetlands and on both sides of all perennial and intermittent streams.
- Maintain wooded lots to the fullest extent possible.
- Avoid the mitigation of wetland impacts through the construction of stormwater management ponds or the creation of instream stormwater management ponds.
- Conduct any in-stream activities during low or no-flow conditions.
- Use non-erodible cofferdams or turbidity curtains to isolate the construction area.
- Block no more than 50% of the streamflow at any given time.
- Stockpile excavated material in a manner that prevents reentry into the stream.
- Restore original streambed and streambank contours.
- Revegetate barren areas with native vegetation.
- Implement strict erosion and sediment control measures.
- Install concrete "in the dry," whether using the Tremie method, grout bags, or wet concrete, to ensure the concrete has hardened and cured prior to contact with open water.
- Construct stream crossings via clear-span bridges to avoid future maintenance costs associated with culverts and the loss of riparian and aquatic habitat. However, if this is not possible, countersink culverts below the streambed at least 6 inches or use bottomless culverts to allow passage of aquatic organisms.
- Install floodplain culverts to carry bankfull discharges.
- Design stormwater controls to replicate and maintain the hydrographic condition of the site prior to the change in landscape. This may include utilizing bioretention areas and minimizing the use of curb and gutter in favor of grassed swales. Bioretention areas (i.e. rain gardens) and grass swales are components of Low Impact Development (LID). Bioretention areas are designed to capture stormwater runoff as close to the source as possible and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the surrounding soil. They benefit natural resources by filtering pollutants and decreasing downstream runoff volumes.

38

39

40

41

Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Improvements
NASA DPEIS/FCD, DEQ 18-073F

- Adhere to a time-of-year restriction protective of resident and migratory songbird nesting from March 15 through August 15 of any year for all tree removal and ground clearing. 42
- Adhere to erosion and sediment controls during ground disturbance. 43

10. Public Water Supply. According to the DPEIS (page 3-198), WFF receives all of its potable water from groundwater supply wells located within the boundaries of the installation. The document does not indicate that water resources would be adversely impacted by the proposal.

10(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Drinking Water (ODW) reviews projects for the potential to impact public drinking water sources (groundwater wells, springs and surface water intakes). VDH administers both federal and state laws governing waterworks operation. 44

10(b) Agency Findings. VDH-ODW concludes that there are no apparent impacts to public drinking water sources due to this project.

For additional information, contact VDH-ODW, Arlene Fields Warren at (804) 864-7781.

11. Aviation Impacts. According to the DPEIS (page 3-191), the Runway 04/22 extension would prevent use of the airspace surrounding the Main Base for a limited time. No institutional support projects would extend into the airspace or clear zone around the Main Base airfield or into the runway approach zone. Therefore, no aspect of implementing any or all of the institutional support projects would affect or have a significant impact on airspace management.

11(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Aviation (DoAv) is a state agency that plans for the development of the state aviation system; promotes aviation; grants aircraft and airports licenses; and provides financial and technical assistance to cities, towns, counties and other governmental subdivisions for the planning, development, construction and operation of airports, and other aviation facilities. 45

11(b) Agency Findings. DoAv staff does not indicate any concern with the proposal.

11(c) Requirements. Due to the proximity of future development to the airfield, a 7460 form must be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for every project to be constructed within 20,000 linear feet of the airfield or that will require a structure, either permanent or temporary, having a height of 200 feet above ground level.

For additional information, contact DoAv, Scott Denny at (804) 236-3638.

REGULATORY AND COORDINATION NEEDS

1. Water Quality and Wetlands. Surface water and wetland impacts associated with improvement activities may require a VWP Permit issued by the DEQ-TRO pursuant to Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:20. Tidal wetland impacts will require review from VMRC and/or Accomack County Wetlands Board. This requires the submission of a JPA which initiates the review process used by DEQ, VMRC, Corps, and local wetland boards. In addition, NASA must coordinate with DEQ-TRO regarding modifications to its existing VPDES individual permit (VA0024457) as a result of project activities. Contact VMRC, George Badger at (757) 414-0710 or george.badger@mrc.virginia.gov, for information and coordination on tidal wetland impacts and the JPA process. For additional information and coordination involving VWP permitting, contact DEQ-TRO, Bert Parolari at (757) 518-2166 or bert.parolari@deq.virginia.gov. For additional information regarding VPDES program requirements, contact DEQ-TRO, Deanna Austin at (757) 518-2008 or deanna.austin@deq.virginia.gov.

46

2. Subaqueous Lands Impacts. Pursuant to Virginia Code §28.2-1200 through 1400, NASA must obtain a permit from VMRC for anticipated impacts to state subaqueous lands. This requires the submission of a JPA to VMRC. For additional information and coordination, contact VMRC, George Badger at (757) 414-0710 or george.badger@mrc.virginia.gov.

47

3. Fish and Shellfish Resources. Contact VMRC, George Badger at (757) 414-0710 or george.badger@mrc.virginia.gov, to address potential project impacts on state fisheries and shellfish resources as a result of proposed improvement activities.

48

4. Nonpoint Source Pollution.

4(a) Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Plans. NASA must ensure that it is in compliance with Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law (Virginia Code § 62.1-44.15:61) and *Regulations* (9 VAC 25-840-30 *et seq.*) and Stormwater Management Law (Virginia Code § 62.1-44.15:31) and *Regulations* (9 VAC 25-870-210 *et seq.*) as administered by DEQ. Land-disturbing activities equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet would be regulated by VESCL&R and VSWML&R. NASA is encouraged to contact DEQ-TRO, Janet Weyland at (757) 518-2151, for assistance with developing or implementing ESC and SWM plans to ensure project conformance.

49

4(b) Virginia Stormwater Management Program General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (VAR10). For projects involving land-disturbing activities of equal to or greater than one acre, NASA is required to develop a project-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan and apply for registration coverage under the Virginia Stormwater Management Program General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities (9 VAC 25-870-10 *et seq.*). Specific questions regarding the Stormwater Management Program requirements should be directed to

50

Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Improvements
NASA DPEIS/FCD, DEQ 18-073F

DEQ, Holly Sepety at (804) 698-4039.

5. Air Emissions. Proposed site-wide improvements may be subject to air quality regulations administered by the Department of Environmental Quality. The following sections of Virginia Administrative Code are applicable:

- fugitive dust and emissions control (9 VAC 5-50-60 *et seq.*);
- open burning restrictions (9 VAC 5-130); and
- fuel-burning equipment (9 VAC 5-80, Article 6, Permits for New and Modified Sources).

For additional information and coordination contact DEQ-TRO, Laura Corl at (757) 518-2178 or laura.corl@deq.virginia.gov. Also, contact Accomack County fire officials for information on any local requirements pertaining to open burning.

5. Waste Management. All solid waste, hazardous waste, and hazardous materials must be managed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations. For additional information concerning location and availability of suitable waste management facilities in the project area or if free product, discolored soils, or other evidence of contaminated soils are encountered, contact DEQ-TRO, Sean Priest at (757) 518-2141 or jonathan.priest@deq.virginia.gov.

5(a) Asbestos-Containing Material. The owner or operator of a demolition activity, prior to the commencement of the activity, is responsible to thoroughly inspect affected structures for the presence of asbestos, including Category I and Category II nonfriable asbestos containing material (ACM). Upon classification as friable or non-friable, all waste ACM shall be disposed of in accordance with the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (9 VAC 20-80-640), and transported in accordance with the Virginia regulations governing Transportation of Hazardous Materials (9 VAC 20-110-10 *et seq.*). Contact the DEQ-TRO, Lisa Silvia at (757) 518-2175 and the Department of Labor and Industry, Doug Wiggins (540) 562-3580 ext. 131 for additional information.

5(b) Lead-Based Paint. This project must comply with the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, and with the Virginia Lead-Based Paint Activities Rules and Regulations. For additional information regarding these requirements contact the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at (804) 367-8500.

5(c) Petroleum Contamination. In accordance with Virginia Code §§ 62.1-44.34.8 through 9 and 9 VAC 25-580-10 *et seq.*, site activities involving excavation or disturbance of petroleum contaminated soils and or groundwater must be reported to DEQ-TRO, Tom Madigan at (757) 518-2115.

5(d) Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance and Inspection. The installation and use of an AST of greater than 660 gallons for temporary fuel storage of more than 120 days

Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Improvements
NASA DPEIS/FCD, DEQ 18-073F

must comply with the requirements in 9 VAC 25-91-10 *et seq.* Contact DEQ-TRO, Tom Madigan at (757) 518-2115 for additional details.

56
(cont.)

6. Natural Heritage Resources. Coordinate with DCR-DNH, Rene Hypes at (804) 371-2708, on the following:

- natural heritage surveys for specific improvements projects;
- a data license agreement for quarterly updates of natural heritage information; and
- updated information on natural heritage resources as the scopes of improvement projects are developed, if project changes occur, and/or six months passes before a project is implemented.

57

7. Wildlife Resources and Protected Species. Coordinate with DGIF, Amy Ewing at (804) 367-2211, regarding the following recommendations:

- impacts to undisturbed ground and wildlife habitats, and/or projects that build upwards impacting migratory flyways and foraging spaces for birds and bats.
- annual biological monitoring on site each year to ensure that effective monitoring protocols are followed and that participants are appropriately permitted to perform the work; and
- updated maps of documented species and the habitats that support them.

58

8. Aviation Impacts. Submit a 7460 form to the FAA, Susan Stafford at (304) 252-6216, x130, for projects within 20,000 linear feet of the airfield or that will require a permanent or temporary structure having a height of 200 feet above ground level.

59

9. Historic and Archaeological Resources. In accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*, as amended, and its implementing regulation 36 CFR 800, NASA must continue to coordinate with DHR with respect to potential project impacts to historic and archaeological resources. For additional information and coordination, contact DHR, Roger Kirchen at (804) 482-6091.

60

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Federal Consistency Determination at the Wallops Flight Facility in Accomack County. Detailed comments of reviewing agencies are attached for your review. Please contact me at (804) 698-4204 or John Fisher at (804) 698-4339 for clarification of these comments.

Sincerely,



Bettina Rayfield, Program Manager
Environmental Impact Review and Long-Range Priorities

Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Improvements
NASA DPEIS/FCD, DEQ 18-073F

Enclosures

Ec: Amy Ewing, DGIF
Robbie Rhur, DCR
Arlene Fields Warren, VDH
George Badger, VMRC
Roger Kirchen, DHR
Scott Denny, DoAv
Keith Tignor, VDACS
David Spears, DMME
Steven Miner, Accomack County
Elaine Meil, Accomack-Northampton PDC
Shari Miller, NASA



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TIDEWATER REGIONAL OFFICE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW COMMENTS

June 7, 2018

PROJECT NUMBER: 18-073F

PROJECT TITLE: Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

As Requested, TRO staff has reviewed the supplied information and has the following comments:

Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanups:

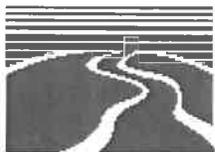
DEQ records indicate that there are several current and closed pollution compliant cases associated with this facility. The closed cases have been closed based on limited risk to the environment. Any future site activities involving excavation or disturbance of formerly petroleum contaminated soils and or groundwater or disturbance within a current pollution petroleum contaminated area should be reported to the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office (TRO). Contact Mr. Tom Madigan (757) 518-2115.

See #54

Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance/Inspections:

The removal, relocation or closure of any regulated petroleum storage tanks - aboveground storage tank (AST); underground storage tank (UST) must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Tank Regulations 9 VAC 25-91-10 et seq (AST) and / or 9 VAC 25-580-10 et seq (UST). Documentation and / or questions should be submitted to Tom Madigan - DEQ Tidewater Regional Office - 5636 Southern Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Phone (757) 518-2115. Installation and operation of any regulated petroleum storage tank(s) either AST or UST must also be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Regulations 9 VAC 25-91-10 et seq and / or 9 VAC 25-580-10 et seq. Please contact Tom Madigan (757) 518-2115 for additional details. The installation and use of an AST (>660 gallons) for temporary fuel storage (>120 days) during the project must follow the requirements in 9 VAC 25-91-10 et. seq. Please contact Tom Madigan of the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office (757) 518-2115 for additional details.

See #19



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TIDEWATER REGIONAL OFFICE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW COMMENTS

June 7, 2018

PROJECT NUMBER: 18-073F

PROJECT TITLE: Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Virginia Water Protection Permit Program (VWPP):

As described in the information provided, several of the institutional support projects will impact surface waters. These projects include the replacement of the existing Causeway Bridge, proposed maintenance dredging, development of the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and construction of Launch Pad 0-C and Launch Pier 0-D. Projects involving impacts to surface waters, including wetlands, may require a VWP permit. Provided that the applicant submits a Joint Permit Application for any impacts to surface waters, receives authorization from our program, and adheres to the conditions of that authorization, the project will be consistent with the VWP program.

See #7
and #50

Air Permit Program :

The following air regulations of the Virginia Administrative Code may be applicable: 9VAC5-50-60 *et seq.* which addresses the abatement of visible emissions and fugitive dust emissions, and 9VAC5-80-1100 *et seq.* which regulates the permitting of new stationary sources of air emissions. For additional information, contact Laura Corl, DEQ-TRO at (757) 518-2178 or laura.corl@deq.virginia.gov.

See #10
and #12

Water Permit Program :

The facility is covered under an individual VPDES permit (VA0024457). Changes to the facility may require updates or changes to the VPDES permit. Construction activity may require mapping changes for the facility as required by the SWPPP. For additional information, please contact Deanna Austin at 757-518-2008 or deanna.austin@deq.virginia.gov

See #46

Waste Permit Program :

All construction, demolition and debris waste including excess soil must be characterized in accordance with the Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations prior to management at an appropriate facility. For additional information, contact Sean Priest, DEQ-TRO at (757) 518-2141 or jonathan.priest@deq.virginia.gov.

See #52

Storm Water Program:

No comments.

See #9



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TIDEWATER REGIONAL OFFICE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW COMMENTS

June 7, 2018

PROJECT NUMBER: 18-073F

PROJECT TITLE: Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The staff from the Tidewater Regional Office thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Cindy Robinson
Environmental Specialist II
5636 Southern Blvd.
VA Beach, VA 23462
(757) 518-2167
Cindy.Robinson@deq.virginia.gov



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

May 30, 2018

Mr. John E. Fisher
c/o Department. Of Environmental Quality
Office of the Environmental Impact Review
1111 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: DEQ #18-073F
"Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide PEIS"

Dear Mr. Fisher:

You have inquired regarding Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement that encompasses a 20-year planning horizon. Several projects have the potential to impact wetlands, State marshlands or State subaqueous lands.

The Marine Resources Commission requires a permit for any activities that encroach upon or over, or take use of materials from the beds of the bays, ocean, rivers and streams, or creeks, which are the property of the Commonwealth.

Based upon my review of the documents, it appear that some of the activities will require authorization from the Marine Resources Commission and/or the Accomack County Wetlands Board. The Causeway Bridge replacement, barge route maintenance dredging, development of the North Wallops Island Deep-water Port and Operations Area, and construction of Launch Pad 0-C, and Launch Pier 0-D all have elements that will require permits. In addition, as stated in appendix G of the PEIS the dredging may affect existing oyster ground leases and wild shellfish along the barge route. Also, the driving of pilings and dredging may adversely impact marine mammals and fisheries.

See #5,
#8, and
#46-48

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 414-0710.

Sincerely,

George H. Badger, III
Environmental Engineer

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, VA 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Fisher, DEQ Office of Environmental Impact Review

FROM: Rachel Hamm, DEQ Principal Environmental Planner

DATE: March 15, 2018

SUBJECT: DEQ #18-073F: Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement– Accomack County

We have reviewed the Federal Consistency Certification submittal for the proposed project and offer the following comments regarding consistency with the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations.

The proposed project is located in the Atlantic Ocean watershed and is outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; thus there are no comments or requirements under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations.

See #1
and #13



MEMORANDUM

TO: John Fisher, DEQ/EIR Environmental Program Planner

FROM: Katy Dacey, Division of Land Protection & Revitalization Review Coordinator

DATE: May 18, 2018

COPIES: Sanjay Thirunagari, Division of Land Protection & Revitalization Review Manager; file

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Review: EIR Project No 18-073F Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Accomack County, VA

The Division of Land Protection & Revitalization (DLPR) has completed its review of the draft May 2018 EIR for the Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide Programmatic project located at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility on Route 175 in Wallops Island, VA 23337

Project Scope: 20 year, site-wide planning horizon activates to include new construction, demolition, renovation, institutional supports and operations throughout the flight facility and Wallops Island areas

Solid and hazardous waste issues were not addressed in the submittal. The submittal did not indicate that a search of Federal or State environmental databases was conducted. DLPR staff conducted a search (2000 mile radius) of solid and hazardous waste databases (including petroleum releases) to identify waste sites in close proximity to the project areas of the flight facility in addition to Wallops Island. DLPR search did identify thirty-two sites within the project areas, which might impact the project. Additionally, the two facilities within the project areas are waste sites that were found to be of possible concern. DLPR staff has reviewed the submittal and offers the following comments:

See #14-20

Hazardous Waste/RCRA Facilities – six in close proximity to project areas

1. ***VAR00518829, Navy-Surface Combat Systems Centers Buildings R-2, R-30, R-20, 30 Battleground Way, Wallops Island, VA 23337, Small Quantity Generator (SQG)***
2. ***VAR00518837, Navy-Surface Combat Systems Centers Buildings V-10/20/21, V-3, V-24, Artist, 30 Battleground Way, Wallops Island, VA 23337, SQG***
3. ***VAR000509240, Wallops FUDS Program, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA 23337. SQG***
4. ***VAR000518845, Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, 34200 Fulton Street Launch Pads O-A and O-B, Wallops Island, VA 23337. SQG***

5. VA7800020888, NASA GSFC Wallops Flight Facility, 34200 Fulton Street and Main land, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Large Quantity Generator (LQG)
6. VA8800010763, NASA GSFC Wallops Flight Facility, 34200 Fulton Street and Main base, Wallops Island, VA 23337. LQG

CERCLA Sites – two were the facilities in the project areas

1. VA800010763, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Route 175, Wallops Island, VA 23337, Not on NPL.
2. VAN000306905, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Route 175, Wallops Island, VA 23337, Not on NPL.

The above information related to hazardous wastes, RCRA/CERCLA sites can be accessed from EPA's websites at <https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/>,

<https://rcrainfopreprod.epa.gov/rcrainfoweb/action/main-menu/view> and
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) – none in close proximity to project areas

Solid Waste – none in close proximity to project areas

Virginia Remediation Program (VRP) – none in close proximity to project areas

Petroleum Releases – twenty-six within the project areas

1. PC#19920783, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Building D-1, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 10/29/1991. Status: Closed.
2. PC#19921558, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Building M-1, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 03/06/1992. Status: Closed.
3. PC#19962241, NASA Wallops Flight Facility New Fuel Farm, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 09/18/1995. Status: Closed.
4. PC#19931193, NASA Wallops Flight Facility - NOAA, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 12/17/1992. Status: Closed.
5. PC#19922027, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Site D8, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 05/01/1992. Status: Closed.
6. PC#19930400, NASA Wallops Flight Facility D-102/103, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 02/18/1992. Status: Closed.
7. PC#19992348, NASA Wallops Island Earth Station-Runway 10-28, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 03/08/1999. Status: Closed.

8. *PC#20155141, Former Navy A-7 Auxiliary Power Station, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 01/12/2015. Status: Closed.*
9. *PC#19910470, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Control Tower, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 09/24/1990. Status: Closed.*
10. *PC#19920576, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Visitor Center, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 10/02/1991. Status: Closed.*
11. *PC#19992209, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – NOAA Facility, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 07/21/1998. Status: Closed.*
12. *PC#19900039, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Old Aviation Fuel Farm, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 07/11/1989. Status: Open.*
13. *PC#19992282, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Satan Radar Antenna, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 11/17/1998. Status: Closed.*
14. *PC#20165134, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Pipeline and Jet Fuel Receiving Area, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 01/07/2016. Status: Closed.*
15. *PC#20135070, MARS Wallops Island – Pad O-A – Hurricane Sandy, Route 798, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 01/14/2013. Status: Closed.*
16. *PC#19952405, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Building V10, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 05/03/1995. Status: Closed.*
17. *PC#19922026, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Building X-75, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 06/02/1992. Status: Closed.*
18. *PC#19930913, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Building X-5 & X-15, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 11/04/1992. Status: Closed.*
19. *PC#20005119, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Building X-76, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 10/26/1999. Status: Closed.*
20. *PC#20015044, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Building X-5, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 10/18/2000. Status: Closed.*
21. *PC#19910363, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Building Y-40, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 09/11/1990. Status: Closed.*
22. *PC#20085052, NASA Wallops Flight Facility Power Plant Site 5, 12, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 12/04/2007. Status: Closed.*
23. *PC#19910039, Z-65 and Y-30, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 07/09/1990. Status: Closed.*
24. *PC#19910580, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Building Y-30, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 07/09/1990. Status: Closed.*

25. *PC#20015022, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – AST 448, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 08/31/2000. Status: Closed.*

26. *PC#19922008, NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility – Site U-30, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA 23337. Release Date: 06/02/1992. Status: Closed.*

Please note that the DEQ's Pollution Complaint (PC) cases identified should be further evaluated by the project engineer or manager to establish the exact location, nature and extent of the petroleum release and the potential to impact the proposed project. Also, the project engineer or manager should contact the DEQ's Tidewater Regional Office at (757) 518-2175 (Tanks Program) for further information about the PC cases.

PROJECT SPECIFIC COMMENTS

None

GENERAL COMMENTS

Soil, Sediment, Groundwater, and Waste Management

Any soil, sediment or groundwater that is suspected of contamination or wastes that are generated must be tested and disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Some of the applicable state laws and regulations are: Virginia Waste Management Act, Code of Virginia Section 10.1-1400 *et seq.*; Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (VHWMR) (9VAC 20-60); Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (VSWMR) (9VAC 20-81); Virginia Regulations for the Transportation of Hazardous Materials (9VAC 20-110). Some of the applicable Federal laws and regulations are: the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. Section 6901 *et seq.*, and the applicable regulations contained in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and the U.S. Department of Transportation Rules for Transportation of Hazardous Materials, 49 CFR Part 107.

See #52

Pollution Prevention – Reuse - Recycling

Please note that DEQ encourages all construction projects and facilities to implement pollution prevention principles, including the reduction, reuse, and recycling of all solid wastes generated. All generation of hazardous wastes should be minimized and handled appropriately.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Katy Dacey at (804) 698-4274.

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Rochelle Altholz
Deputy Director of
Administration and Finance

Russell W. Baxter
Deputy Director of
Dam Safety & Floodplain
Management and Soil & Water
Conservation

Thomas L. Smith
Deputy Director of Operations

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2018
TO: John Fisher, DEQ
FROM: Roberta Rhur, Environmental Impact Review Coordinator
SUBJECT: DEQ 18-073F, Wallops Flight Facility Site-Wide PEIS

Division of Natural Heritage

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map of the Wallops Flight Facility Site (the Main Base, Wallops Mainland, and Wallops Island). Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the following Conservation Sites are located within the project sites: North Wallops Island, Little Mosquito Creek, Wallops Island Seeps, Wallops Island Causeway Marshes, and Assawoman Island.

See #21

Conservation sites are tools for representing key areas of the landscape that warrant further review for possible conservation action because of the natural heritage resources and habitat they support. Conservation sites are polygons built around one or more rare plant, animal, or natural community designed to include the element and, where possible, its associated habitat, and buffer or other adjacent land thought necessary for the element's conservation. Conservation sites are given a biodiversity significance ranking based on the rarity, quality, and number of element occurrences they contain; on a scale of 1-5, 1 being most significant.

A biodiversity significance rank (B-rank) is assigned to all Conservation Sites and SCUs to provide a simple indication of the significance of each site for the conservation of natural heritage resources. B-ranks range from 1-5:

- B1 – Outstanding significance
- B2 – Very high significance
- B3 – High significance
- B4 – Moderate significance
- B5 – General Biodiversity significance

Three factors are evaluated to assign the B-rank: the rarity of the natural heritage resources occurring in the site, the quality of these natural heritage resource occurrences, and the number of these occurrences. Please see Table 1 (attached) for a list of natural heritage resources that are associated with these

conservation sites. Many of the proposed projects have the potential to impact these natural heritage resources. DCR recommends further coordination with this office as specific projects are planned to determine if surveys are needed and potential impacts to natural heritage resources.

See #23

DCR also recommends that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) enter into a data license agreement with DCR similar to the 2010 agreement, so that the NASA-Wallops Flight Facility can incorporate quarterly updates of natural heritage information into their facility planning process.

See #24
and #57

Due to the legal status of some of the species associated with the conservation sites, DCR recommends coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), Virginia's regulatory authority for the management and protection of these species to ensure compliance with protected species legislation.

See #25

Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species.

There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

See #22

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please re-submit project information and map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.

See #26

The VDGIF maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Ernie Aschenbach at 804-367-2733 or Ernie.Aschenbach@dgif.virginia.gov.

The remaining DCR divisions have no comments regarding the scope of this project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

CC: Amy Ewing, VDGIF
Troy Andersen, USFWS

Table 1

GROUP NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY RANK	USFWS-SPECIES OF CONCERN RANK	STATE BIODIVERSITY RANK	FEDERAL PROTECTION STATUS	STATE PROTECTION STATUS	ASSOCIATED CONSERVATION SITE NAME
Animal Assemblage	Bird Nesting Colony		G5					
Invertebrate Animal	<i>Papaipema araliae</i>	Aralia Shoot Borer Moth	G3G4	S1R				ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Invertebrate Animal	<i>Papaipema duvota</i>	Seaside Goldenrod Stem Borer	G4	S2S3				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
				S1S3				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Blechnum rostellata</i> - <i>Spartina patens</i> Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation	Tidal Oligohaline Marsh (Beaked Spikerush - Saltmeadow Cordgrass Estuarine Fringe Type)	G3	S1?				LITTLE MOSQUITO CREEK
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i> - <i>Drosera intermedia</i> - <i>Rhynchospora alba</i> Herbaceous Vegetation (Morella pensylvanica) / <i>Schizachyrium littorale</i> Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation	Sea-Level Fen	G1	S1				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Morella cerifera</i> - <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> / <i>Spartina patens</i> Shrubland	Xeric Backdune Grassland	G2	S2				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Spartina patens</i> - <i>Fimbricystis (castanea-cordiliana)</i> - <i>Cyperus filiformis</i> - <i>Puccia odorata</i> - (<i>Scribneriplectus pungens</i>) Herbaceous Vegetation (Type)	Wax Myrtle Intertidal Shrubland	G3G4	S2S3				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Prunus serotina</i> / <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> / <i>Schizachyrium littorale</i> Woodland	Intertidal Swale (Northern Mixed Grassland Type)	G1G2	S1?				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i> - <i>Distichlis spicata</i> - (<i>Spartina patens</i>) Tidal Herbaceous Vegetation	Black Cherry Xeric Dune Woodland	G1G2	S1				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Alnus serrulata</i> - <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> / <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i> - <i>Eupatorium pilosum</i> - <i>Rhynchospora gracilentia</i> - <i>Xyris tortis</i> Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation	Low Salt Marsh (Salt Pannic Type)	GNR	S3?				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Terrestrial Natural Community	<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	Coastal Plain / Outer Piedmont Seepage Bog	G1	S1				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	Intertidal Swale / Pond	G2	S2				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Crocanthemum propinquum</i>	Brown-tufted Rush	G5	S2				LITTLE MOSQUITO CREEK
Vascular Plant	<i>Blechnum uniglutinis</i>	Low Frostweed	G4	S1				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	One-scale Spikerush	G5	S1				ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Vascular Plant	<i>Eriocaulon decangulare</i> var. <i>decangulare</i>	Brown-tufted Rush	G5?	S2				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	Ten-angled pipewort	G5	S2				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Eriocaulon decangulare</i> var. <i>decangulare</i>	Northern White beaksedge	G5?	S2				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Eriogonum vernum</i>	Ten-angled pipewort	G5	S2				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Eupatorium maritimum</i>	White-top Fleabane	G2?	S1				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Plantago maritima</i> var. <i>juncoides</i>	Seaside Plantain	G5?	S1				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vascular Plant	<i>Juncus megacephalus</i>	Big-headed rush	G4G5	S2				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Vascular Plant	<i>Euphorbia bombensis</i>	Southern seaside spurge	G4G5	S2				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Vascular Plant	<i>Rhynchospora oligantha</i>	Feather-bristled beaksedge	G4	S1				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Vascular Plant	<i>Utricularia juncea</i>	Southern Bladderwort	G5	S1				WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Wilson's Plover	G5	S1B				ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	G3	S2B, S1N				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Least Tern	G4	S2B				ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	G3	S2B, S1N				ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Ryncops niger</i>	Black Stimmer	G5	S2B, S1N				ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Northern Harrier	G5	S1S2B, S3N				WALLOPS ISLAND CAUSEWAY MARSHES, NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND, ASSAWOMAN ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead (Sea Turtle)	G3	S1B, S1N				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND, ASSAWOMAN ISLAND, ASSATEAGUE ISLAND
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Anmodramus caudacutus</i>	Saltmarsh Sparrow	G4	S2B, S3N				WALLOPS ISLAND CAUSEWAY MARSHES
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Anmodramus caudacutus</i>	Saltmarsh Sparrow	G4	S2B, S3N				LITTLE MOSQUITO CREEK, WIRE NARROWS MARSH
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	G4	S2B, S3N				NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND
				S1B, S2N				
CONSERVATION SITE		TYPE						
NORTH WALLOPS ISLAND	B2	Conservation Site						
LITTLE MOSQUITO CREEK	B3	Conservation Site						
WALLOPS ISLAND SEEPS	B2	Conservation Site						
WALLOPS ISLAND CAUSEWAY MARSHES	B4	Conservation Site						
ASSAWOMAN ISLAND	B3	Conservation Site						



Fisher, John <john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov>

ESSLog# 39160_18-073F_WallopsPEIS_DGIF_AME20180607

1 message

Amy Ewing <amy.ewing@dgif.virginia.gov>

Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 11:10 AM

To: John Fisher <john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov>

Cc: Ruth Boettcher <ruth.boettcher@dgif.virginia.gov>, Raymond Fernald <ray.ferald@dgif.virginia.gov>

John,

I apologize that these comments are a few days late, but we turned this around as quickly as we could, in response to this expedited review.

We have reviewed the Draft NASA Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (draft PEIS). We understand the interest by NASA to develop this document, to cover projects currently in various stages of planning proposed to occur at their facilities over the next 20 years. However, we caution that sites such as Wallops, located along the Atlantic Ocean, are prone to significant shoreline and other habitat changes, changes likely to increase in scope in the coming decades. We are concerned that as sands shift and habitats migrate over this extended period of time, wildlife, including listed species, may not be provided the protection they deserve. We recommend that any projects proposed to impact previously undisturbed ground and/or suitable wildlife habitats, and/or projects that build upwards, impacting migratory flyways, and foraging spaces for birds and bats be closely reviewed by us and our conservation partners, namely the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries Service.

If it is decided that development of and adherence to a PEIS for Wallops is the best way forward, we offer the following information to inform the final PEIS:

We document the following listed, and/or tiered wildlife from Wallops Mainland, Wallops Island, and nearby environs:

Listed species:

Federal Endangered state Endangered leatherback sea turtles

Federal Endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtles

Federal Threatened state Threatened loggerhead sea turtles

Federal Threatened green turtles

Federal Threatened red knots

Federal Threatened piping plovers

State Endangered Wilson's plovers

State Threatened peregrine falcons

State Threatened gull-billed terns

Wildlife Action Plan Species of Greatest Conservation Need*:

Northern diamond-backed terrapins (Tier IIa)

- Glossy ibis (Tier Ia)
- Snowy egrets (Tier IIa)
- Little blue herons (Tier IIa)
- Black skimmers (Tier IIa)
- Common terns (Tier IIa)

We document a number of waterbird colonies, many containing one or more of the avian species listed above, from Wallops Island and associated islands, including nearby the barge route that is proposed for dredging. In addition, we have documented a number of bald eagle nests from this area over the years. As noted above and as stated in the draft PEIS, sea turtles are known from the installation, breeding on the beaches that form the eastern boundary of the facility. The most recently documented locations of these species, and others, appear to be accurately depicted in Table 3.10-2 of draft PEIS. We recommend that biological monitoring occur on site each year, in close coordination with VDGIF, NOAA Fisheries Services and the USFWS, ensuring that effective monitoring protocols are followed and that participants are appropriately permitted to perform the work, if necessary. We recommend that updated maps of documented species, and habitats that support them, be developed each year and provided to installation management and staff so that planning around protection of documented wildlife species and resources can occur. We support adherence to the protective/mitigation measures contained within the draft PEIS. We offer the below recommendations for protection of resources under our jurisdiction (in some instances, shared jurisdiction) and recommend inclusion of these recommendations in the PEIS, if not already included, and adherence to them as development plans for the installation move forward. We note that upland sandpipers are no longer listed threatened in Virginia and recommend that the draft PEIS be updated to reflect this change.

Waterbird colonies and beach nesting birds:

We recommend monitoring of shorebird/waterbird colonies and nest sites on Wallops Mainland and Wallops Island each breeding season and mapping of documented colonies and nest sites. To ensure protection of the colony and the species known to nest within it, we recommend no significant land development or timbering activities occur within 0.5 miles of a documented colony/nest site from March 15 through August 31 of any year, or when the last brood fledges as determined by monitoring activities. In addition, we recommend maintaining, planting or enhancing, an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 500 ft around any documented waterbird colonies (not beach nest sites). This provides the colony with a line of sight and habitat buffer, providing nesting activity protection as well as habitat protection to ensure suitability for future nesting seasons.

See #32

Sea turtles:

We recommend monitoring of beach habitats each nesting season to determine the location of any nesting sea turtles on installation grounds. Once identified, we recommend the beach be excluded from activity until monitoring has confirmed the last nest has hatched. If surveys cannot be performed during any given year, we recommend no work on beaches known ever to have supported nesting from May 1 – November 15. We recommend no hydraulic hopper dredging in nearby waters from April 1 through November 30 of any year. We recommend close coordination with the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries Service regarding protection of sea turtles.

See #33

Peregrine falcons:

We recommend no significant human activity within 600 ft of the nest/nest box during the nesting season from February 15 through July 15 of any year. We recommend coordination with us regarding any proposed modification of natural habitats and/or man-made structures currently supporting the species.

See #34

Sea mammals:

We recommend adherence to the mitigation measures included within the draft PEIS and close coordination with NOAA Fisheries Service and the USFWS regarding protection of these animals.

See #35

Bats:

We recommend adherence to the mitigation measures included within the draft PEIS, including adherence to a time of year restriction (TOYR) on tree clearing from June 1 – July 31 of any year, to protect northern long eared bats. We recommend close coordination with us and the USFWS regarding tree clearing on site, particularly if NASA cannot adhere to the TOYR. We recommend consideration of impacts upon foraging and migrating bats associated with projects resulting in flyway impediments.

See #36

Bald eagles:

We recommend adherence to the mitigation measures included within the draft PEIS, including maintenance of an undisturbed buffer around the nest site and continued nest monitoring.

See #37

To minimize overall impacts to wildlife and our natural resources, we offer the following comments about development activities:

We recommend that the applicant avoid and minimize impacts to undisturbed forest, wetlands, and streams to the fullest extent practicable. Avoidance and minimization of impact may include relocating stream channels as opposed to filling or channelizing as well as using, and incorporating into the development plan, a natural stream channel design and wooded buffers. We recommend maintaining undisturbed naturally vegetated buffers of at least 100 feet in width around all on-site wetlands and on both sides of all perennial and intermittent streams. We recommend maintaining wooded lots to the fullest extent possible. We generally do not support proposals to mitigate wetland impacts through the construction of stormwater management ponds, nor do we support the creation of in-stream stormwater management ponds.

See #38

See #39

We recommend conducting any in-stream activities during low or no-flow conditions, using non-erodible cofferdams or turbidity curtains to isolate the construction area, blocking no more than 50% of the streamflow at any given time, stockpiling excavated material in a manner that prevents reentry into the stream, restoring original streambed and streambank contours, revegetating barren areas with native vegetation, and implementing strict erosion and sediment control measures. To minimize harm to the aquatic environment and its residents resulting from use of the Tremie method to install concrete, installation of grout bags, and traditional pouring of concrete, we recommend that such activities occur only in the dry, allowing all concrete to harden and cure prior to contact with open water. Due to future maintenance costs associated with culverts, and the loss of riparian and aquatic habitat, we prefer stream crossings to be constructed via clear-span bridges. However, if this is not possible, we recommend countersinking any culverts below the streambed at least 6 inches, or the use of bottomless culverts, to allow passage of aquatic organisms. We also recommend the installation of floodplain culverts to carry bankfull discharges.

See #40

We recommend that the stormwater controls for this project be designed to replicate and maintain the hydrographic condition of the site prior to the change in landscape. This should include, but not be limited to, utilizing bioretention areas, and minimizing the use of curb and gutter in favor of grassed swales. Bioretention areas (also called rain gardens) and grass swales are components of Low Impact Development (LID). They are designed to capture stormwater runoff as close to the source as possible and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the surrounding soil. They benefit natural resources by filtering pollutants and decreasing downstream runoff volumes.

See #41

We recommend that all tree removal and ground clearing adhere to a time of year restriction protective of resident and migratory songbird nesting from March 15 through August 15 of any year.

See #42

We recommend adherence to erosion and sediment controls during ground disturbance.

See #43

This project is located within 2 miles of a documented occurrence of a state or federal threatened or endangered plant or insect species and/or other Natural Heritage coordination species. Therefore, we recommend coordination with VDCR-DNH regarding the protection of these resources.

See #23-26

We defer a determination of consistency to MRC, as this site drains to marine waters.

*See www.bewildvirginia.org for more information.

Thanks, Amy



Amy Ewing

Environmental Services Biologist

Manager, Fish and Wildlife Information Services

P [804.367.2211](tel:804.367.2211)

A 7870 Villa Park Drive, P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228-0778

www.dgif.virginia.gov

CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.



Fisher, John <john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov>

Re: NEW PROJECT NASA WFF PEIS 18-073F

1 message

Warren, Arlene <arlene.warren@vdh.virginia.gov>

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 4:11 PM

To: John Fisher <john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov>

Project Name: Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Project #: 18-073 F

UPC #: N/A

Location: Accomack County

VDH – Office of Drinking Water has reviewed the above project. Below are our comments as they relate to proximity to **public drinking water sources** (groundwater wells, springs and surface water intakes). Potential impacts to public water distribution systems or sanitary sewage collection systems **must be verified by the local utility.**

There are no public groundwater wells within a 1 mile radius of the project site.

There are no surface water intakes located within a 5 mile radius of the project site.

The project is not within the watershed of any public surface water intakes.

There are no apparent impacts to public drinking water sources due to this project.

- ***Comments from the Office of Radiological Health, Mr. Steve Harrison, Director were "I've reviewed the WFF-PEIS and have no concerns or comments related to ORH."***

See #44

The Virginia Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please let me know.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Mark K. Flynn
Director

Department of Aviation
5702 Gulfstream Road
Richmond, Virginia 23250-2422

V-TDD • (804) 236-3624
FAX • (804) 236-3635

June 27, 2018

Mr. John Fisher
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Impact Review
1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Wallops Island Flight Facility Site Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement,
DEQ-#18-073F

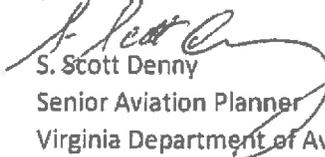
Dear Mr. Fisher:

The Virginia Department of Aviation has reviewed the information package you provided for the Wallops Island Flight Facility Site Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Due to the proximity of future development to the airfield, a 7460 form must be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for every project to be constructed within 20,000 linear feet of the airfield or will require a structure, either permanent or temporary, to have a height of 200' above ground level.

See #45

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (804) 236-3638.

Sincerely,


S. Scott Denny
Senior Aviation Planner
Virginia Department of Aviation

(This page intentionally left blank)