

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY 05-SSC-01

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Rolls-Royce Center of Excellence

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA's policy and procedures (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed construction and operation of a Rolls-Royce Center of Excellence (hereinafter "Center"). The Center would be used for research into gas turbine engine performance, fan behavior, thrust reverser operation, and noise.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing by NASA no later than September 23, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Michael J. Blotzer, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RA02, Building 1100, Room 3029H, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rolls-Royce Center of Excellence Facility that supports this FONSI may be reviewed at the following locations:

<http://www.ssc.nasa.gov/environmental/docforms/eas/eas.html>

Maury Oceanographic Library, Building 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Hancock County Library, Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Margaret Reed Crosby Library, Picayune, MS 39466

St. Tammany Parish Library, Slidell, LA 70458

A limited number of copies of the EA are available by contacting Michael J. Blotzer, NASA Environmental Officer, at the address and/or telephone number herein indicated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael J. Blotzer, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RA02, Building 1100, Room 3029H, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; Telephone (228) 688-2584.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has determined that the EA for the construction and operation of the Rolls-Royce Center for Excellence represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

Through a space act agreement with NASA, Rolls-Royce North America plans to modify the Stennis Space Center (SSC) H-1 Test Stand, an existing horizontal rocket engine test site. The modified test stand site would be used for research into gas turbine engine performance, fan behavior, thrust reverser operation, and noise. The new test site is needed to provide Rolls-Royce North America with the capabilities and facilities to test their manufactured engines within the United States. The alternative considered is the “No Action Alternative” that provides the benchmark against which the proposed action is evaluated.

Environmental impacts for this project would be air emissions and noise. Other potential impacts would include wastewater generation, solid and hazardous waste generation, and storm water runoff. Gas turbine engine testing operations would generate air emissions from fuel burning, primarily nitrogen oxides. The proposed facility would be classified as a major source of air emissions by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and would require Rolls-Royce North America to apply for a Title V air permit. Short term intermittent noise would be generated during construction and noise from the engine testing is estimated to be 90 decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA) at the test stand, 80 dBA extending into the Buffer Zone and have no impact outside of the Buffer Zone. Wastewater generated from test stand engine washing would be collected for offsite disposal at a permitted facility. Storm water would be controlled according to the MDEQ General Construction Storm Water Permit and the MDEQ Baseline Industrial Storm Water Permit. Rolls-Royce North America plans to obtain a generator ID number from the Environmental Protection Agency for collection and disposal of hazardous waste at offsite permitted facilities.

This project would not alter the historic or cultural attributes of SSC. The project site is not located in floodplains or wetlands. No known threatened or endangered species or critical habitats will be affected by the project. No other matters of potential environmental concern have been identified. On the basis of the EA and underlying reference documents, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with this project will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Original signed by:

8/1/2005

T. Q. Donaldson V, RDML USN (Ret)
Director

Date