§ 1216.316 Cooperating with other agencies and individuals.

(a) The Associate Administrator for Management, in coordination with the Associate Administrator for External Relations, shall ensure that NASA officials have an opportunity to cooperate with other agencies and individuals. He/she shall keep abreast of the activities of Federal, state, and local agencies, particularly activities in which NASA has expertise or jurisdiction by law (see 40 CFR 1508.15 of the CEQ Regulations). He/she shall inform the responsible Headquarters official of the need for cooperation as necessary.

(b) At the request of the Associate Administrator for Management, Headquarters officials shall initiate discussions with another Federal agency concerning those activities which may be the subject of that agency’s EIS on which NASA proposes to comment.

(c) At the request of the Associate Administrator for Management, the responsible Headquarters official shall, in the interest of eliminating duplication, prepare joint analyses, assessments, and statements with state and local agencies. These joint environmental documents shall conform with the requirements of these procedures and overall NASA policy.

(d) Because of the uniqueness of the NASA’s aerospace activities, it is unlikely that NASA will have the opportunity to “adopt” environmental statements prepared by other agencies (40 CFR 1506.3 of the CEQ Regulations). However, should the responsible NASA official wish to adopt a Federal draft or final environmental impact statement or portion thereof, he/she shall consult with the Associate Administrator for Management to determine whether that statement meets NASA requirements.

(e) From time to time, there may be disagreements between NASA and other Federal agencies regarding which agency has primary responsibility to prepare an environmental impact statement in which both parties are involved. The Headquarters official with primary responsibility for the activity in question shall consult with the Associate Administrator for Management to resolve such questions in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5 of the CEQ Regulations.

(f) Responsibility for the environmental analyses and any necessary environmental assessments and environmental impact statements required by permits, leases, easements, etc., proposed for issuance to non-Federal applicants rests with the Headquarters official responsible for granting of that permit, lease, easement, etc. The responsible Headquarters official shall consult with the Associate Administrator for Management for advice on the type of environmental information needed from the applicant and on the extent of the applicant’s participation in the necessary environmental studies and their documentation.

§ 1216.317 Classified information.

Environmental assessments and impact statements which contain classified information to be withheld from public release in the interest of national security or foreign policy shall be organized so that the classified portions are appendices to the environmental document itself. The classified portion shall not be made available to the public.

§ 1216.318 Deviations.

From time to time there will arise good and valid reasons for a deviation from these procedures. These procedures are not intended to be a substitute for sound professional judgment. Accordingly, if and as problems arise which justify a deviation, the proposed deviation and supporting rationale shall be forwarded to the Associate Administrator for Management. Unless such documentation is received, it will be assumed that each planning and decisionmaking action is in accordance with these procedures.