Subpart 1216.3—Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)


SOURCE: 44 FR 44485, July 30, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1216.300 Scope.

This subpart sets forth NASA procedures implementing the provisions of section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NASA procedures of this subpart supplement the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations (40 CFR part 1500–1508) which establish uniform procedures for implementing those provisions of NEPA.

§ 1216.301 Applicability.

(a) This subpart is applicable to NASA Headquarters and field installations.

(b) The procedures established by this subpart apply to all NASA actions which may have an impact on the quality of the environment. These actions may fall within any of the four NASA budget categories: Research and Development (R&D), Construction of Facilities (CoF), Research and Program Management (R&PM), and Space Flight Control and Data Communications (SFCDC), or, if not involving budget authority or other congressional approval, may be separate from the categories.

[44 FR 44485, July 30, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 9750, Mar. 20, 1988]

§ 1216.302 Definition of key terms.

The definitions contained within part 1508, Terminology and Index, CEQ Regulations, 43 FR 55978, apply to subpart 1216.3. Additional definitions, necessary for the purpose of this subpart, are as follows:
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(a) Budget line items. The individual items in the annual NASA authorization legislation which are used here to classify the range of NASA actions. The four main budget line items are:

(1) Research and Development (R&D). Those activities directed towards attaining the objectives of a specific mission, project, or program. All NASA’s aeronautics and space program elements are categorized within the R&D program categories. R&D funds are expended chiefly for contracted research and development and for research grants. Some R&D funds are also expended in support of in-house research (e.g., equipment purchases and other research support, but not civil service salaries).

(2) Research and Program Management (R&PM). Those activities directed towards the general support of the NASA institution charged with the conduct of the aeronautics and space program. R&PM funds are expended for the NASA civil service work force (both for performing in-house R&D and for planning, managing, and supporting contractor and grantee R&D), and for other general supporting functions.

(3) Construction of Facilities (C of F). Those activities directed towards construction of new facilities; repair, rehabilitation, and modification of existing facilities; acquisition of related facility equipment; design of facilities projects; and advance planning related to future facilities needs.

(4) Space Flight, Control and Data Communications (SFCDC). Has similar scope to R&D but covers activities which are primarily of a production and operational nature related to space flight. The content includes the national fleet of Space Shuttle orbiters, including main engines, launch site and mission operations, initial spares, production tooling and supporting activities, launch operations and tracking and data acquisition.

(b) Construction of facilities project. The consolidation of applicable specific individual types of facility work, including related collateral equipment, which is required to fully reflect all of the needs, generally relating to one facility, which have been or may be generated by the same set of events or circumstances which are required to be accomplished at one time in order to provide for the planned initial operational use of the facility or a discrete portion thereof. Facility projects are subject to the NASA decision processes of §1216.304.

(c) Environmental analysis. The analysis of the environmental effects of proposed actions, including alternative proposals. The analyses are carried out from the very earliest of planning studies for the action in question, and are the materials from which the more formal environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and public record of decisions are made.

(d) Institutional action. An action to establish, change, or terminate an aspect of the NASA institution, defined as the total NASA resource (plant, employees, skills).

(e) R&D project. A discrete research and development activity, with a scheduled beginning and ending, which normally involves one of the following primary purposes:

(1) The design, development, and demonstration of major advanced technology hardware items;

(2) The design, construction, and operation of a new launch vehicle (and associated ground support) during its research and development phase; and

(3) The construction and operation of one or more aeronautics or space vehicles (and necessary ground support) in order to accomplish a scientific or technical objective. R&D projects are each subelements in the NASA R&D budget line item. R&D projects are subject to the decision processes of §1216.304.

(f) SFCDC project. R&D type projects authorized under the SFCDC budget line item.

[44 FR 44485, July 30, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 9761, Mar. 25, 1988]

§ 1216.303 Responsibilities of NASA officials.

(a) The Associate Administrator for Management or designee, who is responsible for developing the procedures of this subpart and for ensuring that environmental factors are properly considered in all NASA planning and decisionmaking, shall: