

public comment that the CCE is not delivered on a timely basis, indicating that relatively few people currently rely on the published CCE to secure copyright registration information.

While the Copyright Office has maintained public records since 1870, the information has never been so readily and widely available before. This is due to the fact that in 1994 the Copyright Office inaugurated remote public access via Internet to its computerized database of post 1977 copyright registration and recordation information. Public information on how to use the registration system, including forms and circulars, was included as part of the on-line system.

The registration information and recorded documents which are available over Internet are limited to Copyright Office records produced in machine-readable form from January 1, 1978, to the present. These include the following files: COHM, which contains all original and renewal registrations except serials; COHD, which contains documents; and COHS, which contains serials. Locating information through on-line searches of the record eliminates the need to search individual volumes of the published CCE and is, therefore, far more efficient.

V. Conclusion

While the Copyright Office has historically been assigned the responsibility of creating and maintaining a public record of copyright registration information, the Office has had difficulty in serving the needs of individuals who were unable to come to the Copyright Office. Since the Catalog of Copyright Entries addressed this need, it maintained some level of support within the copyright community. The Office is now providing broad public access on a timely basis via Internet, and there is no longer any reason for maintaining publication of the Catalog of Copyright Entries.

Publication of the catalog has always been quite costly due to the low volume of sales. Moreover, publication of the catalog serves relatively few people since existence of the catalog is not widely known, and only a few hundred copies of each edition of the catalog is distributed. Individuals with access to the Internet, on the other hand, number in the millions; therefore, making copyright registration information available over the Internet is a far more efficient means for publicly disseminating copyright registration information.

The Office has determined that the language of section 707(a) of the Copyright Act is sufficiently flexible to

authorize publishing copyright registration information over the Internet. The legislative history of this section emphasizes flexibility and actually mentions "electronic devices" as a suitable means for enhancing distribution efficiency. For these reasons, the Copyright Office is discontinuing publication by print or microfiche of the Catalog of Copyright Entries and will meet its responsibilities under 17 U.S.C. 707(a) through publication over Internet. The Office will continue to maintain the volumes of CCE printed so far.

Dated: September 30, 1996.
Marilyn J. Kretsinger,
Acting General Counsel.
[FR Doc. 96-25345 Filed 10-4-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 1410-30-P

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

Sunshine Act Notice

TIME AND DATE: 2:30 p.m., Monday, October 7, 1996.

PLACE: Board Conference Room, Eighth Floor, 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20419.

STATUS: The meeting will be closed to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Litigation strategy in the case *Willie Williams v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, Docket Number AT-0752-94-0127-I-1 (case caption *Willie Williams v. Merit Systems Protection Board*, Docket Number 96-3259 in United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit) and adjudication of *Dexter Neal v. Department of Defense*, Docket Number DA-0432-95-0225-I-1.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Matthew Shannon, Counsel to the Clerk of the Board, (202) 653-7200.

Dated: October 2, 1996.
Robert E. Taylor,
Clerk of the Board.
[FR Doc. 96-25718 Filed 10-3-96; 9:30 am]
BILLING CODE 7400-11-M

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 96-118]

National Environmental Policy Act; X-33 Program: Vehicle Design and Flight Demonstration

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conduct scoping for the development and testing of the X-33 vehicle.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500-1508), and NASA policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), NASA intends to prepare an EIS for Phase II of the X-33 Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program"), which would involve development and demonstration of the X-33 test vehicle. The EIS will address environmental issues associated with the fabrication, assembly, testing, and preparation of the flight operations and landing sites associated with the X-33 technology demonstrator spaceplane. The purpose of the proposed test program is to demonstrate the feasibility of technology which could result in commercially viable Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV's) with certain aircraft-like operational characteristics. The proposed Phase II of the Program would involve final design, assembly and testing the X-33 vehicle by the year 2000.

Flight operations and landing site alternatives are under consideration to satisfy flight testing requirements. The flight test demonstration program would require short-range, mid-range, and long-range landing sites remote from the flight operations (*i.e.*, vehicle takeoff) site at distances of approximately 160, 640, and 1,360 kilometers (km) (100, 400, and 850 miles (mi)) respectively. The reasonable alternative sites for the proposed flight operations are located within Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) near Lancaster, California. Alternative landing sites for the flight test activities are being considered in the states of California, Utah, Montana, and Washington.

NASA is the lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. It is anticipated that components of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Federal Aviation Administration will act as cooperating agencies.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit comments on or before November 29, 1996, to assure full consideration during the scoping process.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Dr. Rebecca C. McCaleb, Director, Environmental Engineering and Management Office, Code AE01,