

for the expansion of launch range operations at Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF).

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 (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216, Subpart 1216.3), NASA has prepared a Draft EA for the proposed expansion of launch range operations at Goddard Space Flight Center's WFF, Wallops Island, Virginia. NASA proposes to enhance national launch capabilities through improvements to infrastructure and the expansion of its launch range operations at WFF. The major actions proposed include: (1) establishment of a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed commercial launch site to operate from WFF under a Use Agreement with NASA; (2) improvements to real property necessary to support the expansion of launch operations; (3) expansion of operations at WFF to accommodate twelve orbital launches per year; and (4) restoration of the historical level and nature of operations on the WFF range. The improvements to infrastructure and the establishment of a licensed commercial launch site at WFF would increase the national capacity for the launching of commercial satellites and provide additional capacity for all launch operations from Wallops Island. If a decision were to be made to proceed with the proposed action, implementation would begin during the latter part of calendar year 1997.

DATES: Comments on the Draft EA must be in writing and received by NASA on or before October 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Keith Koehler, Public Affairs Office, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia 23337. The Draft EA may be reviewed at the following locations:

(a) NASA Headquarters, Library, Room 1J20, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20546 (202-358-0167).

(b) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Flight Facility, Public Affairs Office, Wallops Island, Virginia, 757-824-1579.

(c) Eastern Shore Public Library, PO Box 360, Accomac, Virginia, 23301 (757-787-3400).

(d) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818-354-5179).

(e) Spaceport U.S.A., Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler Beforehand at 407-867-2497 so that arrangements can be made.

In addition, the Draft EA may be reviewed at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office.

(f) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (415-604-4190).

(g) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA 93523 (805-258-3448).

(h) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301-286-0730).

(i) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281-483-8612).

(j) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665 (757-864-2497).

(k) NASA, Lewis Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216-433-2222).

(l) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812 (205-544-0031).

(m) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (601-688-2164).

A limited number of copies of the Draft EA are available, on a first request basis, by contacting the Wallops Flight Facility Public Affairs Office at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: The Wallops Flight Facility, Public Affairs Office, Wallops Island, VA (757-824-1579).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance national launch capabilities through improvements to infrastructure and the expansion of launch range operations at WFF. An FAA licensed commercial launch site at WFF would be established to promote this expansion of launch capabilities. The licensed commercial launch site is necessary to further encourage, facilitate, and promote a competitive United States commercial launch site industry.

This Draft EA identifies potential impacts that may occur during implementation of the proposed action. The Draft EA addresses environmental impacts associated both with construction of launch support facilities and launch operations. The expansion of launch operations is proposed to include up to 12 orbital launches per year, in addition to the historical level of launches conducted at the WFF launch range. The minimum proposed improvements to WFF's real property and infrastructure necessary to accomplish the proposed expansion

include: (1) modifications to existing launch pad 0-A; (2) modifications to existing buildings for payload processing facilities; and (3) the construction of a new launch pad designated as pad 0-B. WFF's proposed launch range expansion would accommodate various solid and liquid (liquid oxygen-hydrogen, liquid oxygen-kerosene) rocket motor configurations.

The following alternative locations are considered alternative sites to the proposed action: (1) Spaceport Florida, located adjacent to Cape Canaveral Air Station on the east coast of Florida; (2) California Spaceport, located at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; (3) Kodiak Launch Complex, Kodiak, Alaska; (4) no action.

Impacts to the human environment associated with the proposed action—proposed expansion of launch range operations at WFF—can be divided into short-term (construction phase) and long-term (operational phase) impacts. The construction phase would last approximately 12-15 months. The Draft EA evaluates the environmental consequences including, but not limited to, air and water quality, noise, flora and fauna, threatened and endangered species, health and safety, solid and hazardous waste management, socioeconomics, land use, and wetlands and floodplain management. The proposed action would occur in a 100-year floodplain and result in the conversion of 1,280 square meters (about 1/3 acre) of wetlands.

After receipt and consideration of comments on the Draft EA, NASA will prepare and issue a Final EA for the proposed expansion of launch range operations at WFF. The Final EA will be used to determine whether a finding of no significant impact will be appropriate or whether there is a need to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Benita A. Cooper,

Associate Administrator for Management Systems and Facilities.

[FR Doc. 97-23654 Filed 9-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (97-132)]

NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Aviation Safety Reporting System Subcommittee Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Aviation Safety Reporting System Subcommittee meeting.

DATES: September 23, 1997, 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., September 24, 1997, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., September 25, 1997, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and September 26, 1997, 9:00 to 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center, Building 219, Room 203, Moffet Field, CA 94035.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Linda Connell, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center, Moffet Field, CA 94035, 650/604-6654.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Agenda topics for the meeting are as follows:

- Status Reports on the Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS) and the Aviation Performance Measuring System (APMS)
- Presentations on Future Planning
- Information Technology Demonstrations for the ASRS and APMS Programs

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitors register.

Dated: August 29, 1997.

Leslie M. Nolan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NATIONAL SKILL STANDARDS BOARD

Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: National Skill Standards Board.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Skill Standards Board was established by an Act of Congress, the National Skill Standards Act, Title V, Pub. L. 103-227. The 27-member National Skill Standards Board will serve as a catalyst and be responsible for the development and implementation of a national system of voluntary skill standards and

certification through voluntary partnerships which have the full and balanced participation of business, industry, labor, education and other key groups.

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 1997, in Mount Vernon Salons A, B & C at the Madison Hotel located at 15th and M Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

AGENDA: The agenda for the Board Meeting will include: an update from the Board's committees, representatives from the groups convening the Voluntary Partnerships, and a preliminary report on how the Board and the American National Standards Institute intend to work together.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., is open to the public. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats will be reserved for the media. Individuals with disabilities should contact Pat Warfield at (202) 254-8628, if special accommodations are needed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracy Marshall, Manager of Program Operations at (202) 254-8628.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 29th day of August, 1997.

Edie West,

Executive Director, National Skill Standards Board.

[FR Doc. 97-23703 Filed 9-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[IA 97-068]

Order Superseding Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities (Effective Immediately)

I

Aharon Ben-Haim, Ph.D. (Dr. Ben-Haim), Medical Physicist, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, is a contractor consultant for Newark Medical Associates, P.A. (licensee), the holder of Byproduct Nuclear Material License No. 29-30282-01 (license) issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) pursuant to 10 CFR Part 30. The license authorizes possession and use of any radiopharmaceutical identified in 10 CFR 35.200 for any imaging and localization procedure approved in 10 CFR 35.200. The license was originally issued on September 25, 1996, and is due to expire on September 30, 2001.

II

During a new license inspection conducted on January 29, 1997, at the licensee's facility, several apparent violations of NRC requirements were identified. Subsequent to the inspection, the NRC initiated an investigation which led the NRC to issue to Dr. Ben-Haim, on July 31, 1997, an Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC Licensed Activities (Effective Immediately) Pending Further Order (62 FR 43357). That Order was issued pending completion of the NRC staff review of the results of the investigation, which was conducted by the NRC's Office of Investigations (OI). The NRC staff's review of the results of the OI investigation is now complete.

III

The OI investigation focused in part on Dr. Ben-Haim's actions in causing the licensee to be in violation of NRC requirements. The NRC learned during the investigation that Dr. Ben-Haim, in his capacity as a contractor-consultant to the licensee, had prepared the license application (NRC Form 313) dated February 21, 1996, for Newark Medical Associates, and that the license application was inaccurate in that it named Gerard W. Moskowitz, M.D., (Dr. Moskowitz) as the only authorized user and Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) without Dr. Moskowitz's consent or knowledge, and without Dr. Moskowitz's ever having been affiliated or associated with the licensee. Dr. Moskowitz did not ever perform the role of authorized user or RSO at the licensee's facility, and did not become aware that he was listed on the application and the license until notified by the NRC on February 6, 1997, more than four months after the license was originally issued. These inaccurate statements in the license application prepared by Dr. Ben-Haim, formed, in part, the basis for the issuance of the license to Newark Medical Associates on September 25, 1996.

During the period from November 1997 through February 6, 1997, Dr. Ben-Haim, in his role as contractor-consultant to the licensee, aided and assisted the licensee in continuing to conduct NRC-licensed activities even though the licensee did not employ the authorized user or the RSO named in the license application and, subsequently, on the NRC license, nor did the named individual serve in these capacities. Based on the results of the OI investigation, the NRC has determined that Dr. Ben-Haim's actions constitute