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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 04-082]

NASA Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee, Space Station Utilization Advisory Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee, Space Station Utilization Advisory Subcommittee (SSUAS).

DATES: Wednesday, July 28, 2004, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, July 29, 2004, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, July 30, 2004, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: Center for Advanced Space Studies, 3600 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald A. Thomas, Code U, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Houston, TX 77058, (281) 483-7211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting will include the following topics:

- Status on U.S. Vision for Space Exploration and its relationship to Research on International Space Station
- Program Reports from the Office of Biological and Physical Research and the International Space Station Program
- International Space Station Payload Operations
- Recommendations

It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

R. Andrew Falcon,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

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NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Adoption of Final Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures

AGENCY: National Capital Planning Commission.

ACTION: Announcement of the adoption of Final Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

Authority: National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act.

SUMMARY: On April 1, 2004, the National Capital Planning Commission adopted its updated and revised Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. The Policies and Procedures were originally adopted on September 13, 1979 and amended on September 3, 1981, October 21, 1982. The revised policies adopted on April 1, 2004 represent the first wholesale revisions and updating of the policies in over twenty years.

A draft of the revised Policies and Procedures was originally published in the **Federal Register** for public comment on September 25, 2000. Following the receipt and consideration of comments, a revised draft was presented during an information presentation on the draft policies and procedures at the February 5, 2004 Commission meeting. Copies of the revised draft were made available for review on NCPC's Web site and upon request on December 29, 2003.

In drafting the revised policies and procedures, NCPC consulted with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and took into consideration valuable input from members of the public who provided testimony and written comments early in the review process. In addition, NCPC considered the recommendations of the CEQ's September 2003 NEPA Task Force report "Modernizing NEPA Implementation."

The revised and updated policies and procedures update and clarify NCPC's existing environmental and historic preservation policies and procedures in the following significant areas: (1) Making more explicit the levels of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act required for each stage of NCPC's review of a project or master plan; (2) requiring a clearly defined NEPA scoping process; (3) expanding the public participation requirements during compliance with NEPA and Section 106; (4) integrating more closely the NEPA and Section 106 compliance

processes; and (5) updating and revising NCPC's list of categorical exclusions under NEPA.

DATES: The Final Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures were adopted on April 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures can be requested at NCPC's offices at 401 9th Street, NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the Policies and Procedures can be obtained at NCPC's offices and Web site, www.ncpc.gov, or by contacting Mr. Eugene Keller, NCPC's Environmental Officer at 202-482-7200 or by e-mail at gene.keller@ncpc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The policies and procedures as adopted on September 13, 1979 and amended on September 3, 1981, October 21, 1982, and April 1, 2004, are as follows (excluding Appendices, which may be obtained directly from NCPC:

Section 1. Purpose

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*, requires federal agencies to carefully consider environmental impacts in their decisions. All federal agencies must direct, to the fullest extent possible, their policies, plans, and programs to protect and enhance environmental quality. These procedures adopt and supplement the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA and describe the way the National Capital Planning Commission, beginning at an early point in its decision making process, considers the environmental and historic aspects of proposed actions that it may review and approve. The Commission's goals are to avoid or minimize adverse environmental consequences and enhance its decision processes based on a better understanding of environmental and historic resources impacts. In addition, these procedures provide guidance for early implementation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in conjunction with NEPA.

The policy and procedures serve three primary functions. First, the National Capital Planning Commission must meet the requirements of NEPA for projects the Commission sponsors or co-sponsors as major federal actions that may significantly affect the environment. Second, the Commission must adhere to and meet the objectives of NHPA and its Section 106 process