Attachment 20A

Explanatory Note for NASA Report
November 5, 2010

As of September 30, 2010, NASA is reporting a total of 14 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects/activities. This is the same number reported on the June 30, 2010, report. As previously reported, NASA has completed a total of 91 NEPA actions, including 79 Categorical Exclusions (CE) actions, 11 Environmental Assessment (EA) actions, and one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) action in support of all four NASA programs funded under the ARRA (Science, Cross Agency Support, Exploration, and Aeronautics).

NASA has obligated a total of $999,691,821 which represents 100% of NASA's total ARRA appropriations received for programs and activities. This represents $48,103,227 in final appropriates made over the $951,588,594 total reported in the June 30, 2010, report. Funds were obligated in all four ARRA Program Areas. NASA has not identified any projects where NEPA is not applicable and no projects/activities have been withdrawn. As of September 30, 2010, NASA has no pending NEPA actions.

UPDATES (By ARRA Program and Project/Activity)

By March 2010, NASA had completed 100% of the NEPA actions for the ARRA funded programs and projects/activities. There have been no new projects and no change in the number (14) of 14 ARRA funded projects/activities. There are no NEPA updates to report for this quarter and none is anticipated in the future.

NASA has completed all awards of Science, Exploration, and Aeronautics contracts and cooperative agreement proposals in accordance with applicable Program Plans and Recovery Act provisions, and almost 70% of funds appropriated have been disbursed for those projects. The NASA Office of Inspector General continues to support a performance audit on funded activities. Additional information on NASA's ARRA funded projects/activities can be found at http://www.nasa.gov/recovery/.

BENEFITS

Environmentally sound decision making is an important part of the NASA value system and plays a fundamental role in NASA's Program and Project planning. NASA's NEPA program ensures that the agency is proactive in meeting its Federal stewardship responsibilities while ensuring mission success and lowering environmental liability. For example, within our Recovery Act Cross Agency Support (CAS) Program, a reduction in energy, operations, and maintenance costs was identified as one of four overarching success criteria for the program. In addition, sustainability practices were incorporated into the CAS projects as requirements. These

requirements include; the use of recycled materials, recycling of materials removed during construction and remodeling, and a reduction in energy use.

Johnson Space Center (JSC) is expected to gain between 20 to 30% in energy efficiency on each building where Recovery Act funded roof repairs are being undertaken. In addition, energy efficient windows are currently being installed in the JSC Administration building.

EXPLANATIONS

NASA's attached excel spreadsheet was completed using the following internal NASA explanations and guidelines:

1. Total Obligation is defined as "a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future. Budgetary resources must be available before obligations can be incurred legally. This term includes obligations as well as recoveries of the current and prior year obligations. Recoveries of prior year obligations are reported as budgetary resources in budget execution reporting rather than as obligations" (per the OMB Updated Implementing Guidance for the ARRA of 2009, dated April 3, 2009).
2. Categorical Exclusions (CE) are reported under the same Title/Program and Project/Activity if they are similar in nature. For example, CEs for roof replacements and building repairs at Johnson Space Center due to Hurricane Ike in 2008 are reported under a single Project/Activity entitled "Hurricane Repairs at JSC," and include ten individual facility repair projects and activities. This same methodology will be used for Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). In the case where several CE's are grouped together under the same Project/Activity, the "Date NEPA is Done" reflects the date the last CE was completed.
3. Date of Completion for CEs fall into one of three categories: (1) the date a NASA Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) was signed; (2) The date an environmental checklist was completed for an action not requiring a REC; or (3) the date either the NASA HQ NEPA Program Manager or Center NEPA Manager determined that the project/activity fell under a CE and no REC was required.
4. NASA still has 14 ARRA-funded projects. Project/Activities may have multiple NEPA actions indicated on the report because multiple tasks are occurring under the same ARRA project/activity. NASA has an Agency work breakdown structure for ARRA funded activities, which defines each project. A project is generally highly complex, and has many activities occurring at multiple NASA sites that contribute to its completion. A project often constitutes a single mission into space which is comprised of multiple subsystems, and consists of multiple tests and development activities. A project may contribute to a single research objective, and hence have multiple experiments and activities associated with it. Activities may occur at more than one NASA Center and each Center may prepare its own environmental review documentation in support of the project/activity. As a result, a "project" as defined for Recovery Act budgeting/accounting purposes does not always align with the "project" as defined for NEPA purposes on a one-to-one basis.
5. There is a considerable difference between the number of NEPA actions and the number of Recovery-Act funded projects in this report. Most ARRA-funded projects in this report

consist of several individual tasks or activities, each with its own discrete NEPA action. The ARRA-funded project identifies either:

a. A broad project with several interdependent tasks which would involve one programmatic NEPA analysis, followed by subsequent tiered actions or site specific analyses; or
b. Multiple component "projects" that have independent utility and are individually analyzed under NEPA.

NASA has determined that for clarity and consistency purposes, with other reporting, funds allocation, and the management structure for the ARRA-funded projects/activities, there is only one ARRA project/activity indicated for the Cross Agency Support Program on Page 1 of the report (in the "Number of ARRA Funded Projects/Activities" column). Ten CE actions are still indicated on Page 2 of the report, and in columns describing NEPA actions on Page 1. This reporting method is applied to all the projects/activities within NASA's ARRA Programs.

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