

APPENDIX G

DRAFT PEA COMMENT LETTERS

**White Mountain Apache Tribe Heritage Program
PO Box 507 Fort Apache, AZ 85926
1 (928) 338-3033 Fax: (928) 338-6055**

To: Joshua Bundick, Wallops Flight Facility NEPA Manger
Date: June 15, 2010
Project: NASA Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment FONSI.

The White Mountain Apache Historic Preservation Office (THPO) appreciates receiving information on the proposed project, dated June 11, 2010. In regards to this, please attend to the checked items below.

► *There is no need to send additional information unless project planning or implementation results in the discovery of sites and/or items having known or suspected Apache Cultural affiliation.*

The proposed project is located within an area of probable cultural or historical importance to the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT). As part of the effort to identify historical properties that maybe affected by the project we recommend an ethno-historic study and interviews with Apache Elders. The Cultural Resource Director, *Mr. Ramon Riley* would be the contact person at (928) 338-4625 should this become necessary.

► Please refer to the attached additional notes in regards to the proposed project:

We have received and reviewed the information regarding NASA's Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment and the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed increase in scientific balloon launch and flight operations originating from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facilities located in Fort Summer, New Mexico and Palestine, Texas, and we've determined the Proposed Action and/or project will not have an effect on the White Mountain Apache tribe's Cultural Heritage Resources and/or historic properties. Regardless, any/all ground disturbance should be monitored if there are reasons to believe that human remains and/or funerary objects are present, if such remains and/or objects are encountered all construction activities are to be stopped and the proper authorities and/or affiliated tribe(s) be notified to evaluate the situation.

We look forward to continued collaborations in the protection and preservation of places of cultural and historical significance.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Altaha *MMA*
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Historic Preservation Officer
Email: markaltaha@wmat.us



STEVEN A. THOMPSON
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BRAD HENRY
Governor

June 16, 2010

Joshua A. Bundick
Wallops Flight Facility NEPA Manager
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337



Reply To Attn of: 250.W

Dear Mr. Bundick:

RE: NASA Scientific Balloon Program Programmatic Environmental
Assessment

In response to your request, we have completed an preliminary review regarding the above referenced proposal with regard to water quality, air quality, hazardous waste and solid waste. At this time, we have no objections nor comments regarding the project.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at 405/702-1031 or 1/800-869-1400.

Sincerely,

Kara L. Williams
Environmental Programs Manager
CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



KANSAS

KSR&C No. 09-10-142

Kansas Historical Society
Jennie Chinn, *Executive Director*

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

June 21, 2010



Joshua Bundick
NEPA Manager
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, WA 23337

RE: Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
Scientific Balloon Launch and Flight Operations
Statewide

Dear Mr. Bundick:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800, our office acknowledges receipt of a draft document entitled *NASA Scientific Balloon Program, Programmatic Environmental Assessment*. We find the document to be acceptable and concur with its recommendation that an increase in scientific balloon launch and flight operations originating from NASA's facilities in Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Palestine, Texas will have no effect on historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800. This office therefore continues to have no objection to expansion of the program.

This information is provided at your request to assist you in identifying historic properties, as specified in 36 CFR 800 for Section 106 consultation procedures. If you have questions or need additional information regarding these comments, please contact Patrick Zollner at 785-272-8681 ext. 217 or Tim Weston at 785-272-8681 (ext. 214).

Sincerely,

Jennie Chinn, Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Patrick Zollner
Deputy SHPO



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

In Reply Refer To:

FWS/R2/ES-HC/EC/045242

JUL 15 2010

Mr. Joshua A. Bundick
Wallops Flight Facility NEPA Manager
Goddard Space Flight Center's, Code 250.W
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

Dear Mr. Bundick:

On June 14, 2010, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed increase in scientific balloon launch and flight operations originating from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facilities located in Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Palestine, Texas, dated June 11, 2010.

We reviewed the draft PEA and FONSI and do not have any comments because there will be no construction at the facilities, and the facilities are not located near any existing federally listed species on record. The draft PEA states that when payloads land in designated critical habitat the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility will contact the Service to determine the best method to retrieve the payload. We look forward to hearing from you should such an event occur.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Baker, Chief, Habitat Conservation/Environmental Contaminants, at 505-248-6681.

Sincerely,

Joy E. Nicholas
ACTING Regional Director

Mr. Joshua A. Bundick

2

cc: Supervisors, Ecological Services Field Offices, Albuquerque, NM; Arlington, TX



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 771-2300 • www.azdeq.gov



Benjamin H. Grumbles
Director

July 9, 2010

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Attn: 250.W
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337

Project: Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for NASA Scientific Balloon Program

Dear Sir/Madame (Attn: 250W.):

The Air Quality Division (AQD) of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality received your compact disc (CD) containing the scoping letter dated June 11, 2010. The Draft NASA Scientific Balloon Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment described on the CD has been reviewed for potential General Conformity Determination with the Arizona State Implementation Plan in accordance with Clean Air Act Section 176(c)(1); 58 Federal Register 63214-63259; Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51, Subpart W §§ 51.850-51.860; Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 93, Subpart B §§ 93.150-160; and Arizona Administrative Code R18-2-348 (approved into the Arizona State Implementation Plan April 23, 1999; effective June 22, 1999).

The Air Quality Division has concluded that a General Conformity Determination is not required at this time for the following reasons:

- Project is not in an Arizona Nonattainment or Maintenance Area.

Based on the introductory letter (from Mr. Joshua Bundick) and Section 3.4.2 of the Draft Programmatic EA, neither of the project facilities is located in the State of Arizona.

- Project's total emissions of PM₁₀ would be less than *de minimis* levels in Title 40 CFR § 51.853(b) [and §93.153(b)] as described or calculated.

Based on additional information within Section 3.4, the ballast within the balloons which is used maintain proper elevation during tests consist of very fine glass beads [grain size 0.69 mm to 0.84 mm] or fine steel shot [grain size 0.3 mm to 0.5 mm]. Based on the size of the ballast, it is not a source of PM₁₀ within the balloons. Although rarely performed, should all the ballast be

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1801 W. Route 66 • Suite 117 • Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 779-0313

Southern Regional Office
400 West Congress Street • Suite 433 • Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 628-6733

Sir/Madame (Attn: 250W.)
July 9, 2010
Page 2

released at one time, it would travel in the upper atmospheric winds and be dispersed over hundreds of miles. The particle size of the glass beads and steel shot exceeds 10 microns, and as such, neither of these materials is regulated by the USEPA.

Therefore the AQD concurs with the FONSI based on the results of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA).

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (602) 771-2375 or A. "Bonnie" Cockrell at (602) 771-2378 of the Planning Section Staff.

Very truly yours,



Diane L. Arnst, Manager
Air Quality Planning Section

Enclosure

cc: Bret Parke, EV Administrative Counsel
A. "Bonnie" Cockrell, Environmental Program Specialist, Air Planning
File No. 240091



R18-2-604. Open Areas, Dry Washes, or Riverbeds

- A. No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit a building or its appurtenances, or a building or subdivision site, or a driveway, or a parking area, or a vacant lot or sales lot, or an urban or suburban open area to be constructed, used, altered, repaired, demolished, cleared, or leveled, or the earth to be moved or excavated, without taking reasonable precautions to limit excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne. Dust and other types of air contaminants shall be kept to a minimum by good modern practices such as using an approved dust suppressant or adhesive soil stabilizer, paving, covering, landscaping, continuous wetting, detouring, barring access, or other acceptable means.
- B. No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit a vacant lot, or an urban or suburban open area, to be driven over or used by motor vehicles, trucks, cars, cycles, bikes, or buggies, or by animals such as horses, without taking reasonable precautions to limit excessive amounts of particulates from becoming airborne. Dust shall be kept to a minimum by using an approved dust suppressant, or adhesive soil stabilizer, or by paving, or by barring access to the property, or by other acceptable means.
- C. No person shall operate a motor vehicle for recreational purposes in a dry wash, riverbed or open area in such a way as to cause or contribute to visible dust emissions which then cross property lines into a residential, recreational, institutional, educational, retail sales, hotel or business premises. For purposes of this subsection "motor vehicles" shall include, but not be limited to trucks, cars, cycles, bikes, buggies and 3-wheelers. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be subject to prosecution under A.R.S. § 49-463.

Historical Note

Adopted effective May 14, 1979 (Supp. 79-1). Former Section R9-3-604 renumbered without change as Section R18-2-604 (Supp. 87-3). Amended effective September 26, 1990 (Supp. 90-3). Former Section R18-2-604 renumbered to R18-2-804, new Section R18-2-604 renumbered from R18-2-404 and amended effective November 15, 1993 (Supp. 93-4).

R18-2-605. Roadways and Streets

- A. No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the use, repair, construction or reconstruction of a roadway or alley without taking reasonable precautions to prevent excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne. Dust and other particulates shall be kept to a minimum by employing temporary paving, dust suppressants, wetting down, detouring or by other reasonable means.
- B. No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit transportation of materials likely to give rise to airborne dust without taking reasonable precautions, such as wetting, applying dust suppressants, or covering the load, to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne. Earth or other material that is deposited by trucking or earth moving equipment shall be removed from paved streets by the person responsible for such deposits.

Historical Note

Adopted effective May 14, 1979 (Supp. 79-1). Former Section R9-3-605 renumbered without change as Section R18-2-605 (Supp. 87-3). Amended effective September 26, 1990 (Supp. 90-3). Former Section R18-2-605 renumbered to R18-2-805, new Section R18-2-605 renumbered from R18-2-405 effective November 15, 1993 (Supp. 93-4).

R18-2-606. Material Handling

No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit crushing, screening, handling, transporting or conveying of materials or other operations likely to result in significant amounts of airborne dust without taking reasonable precautions, such as the use of spray bars, wetting agents, dust suppressants, covering the load, and hoods to prevent excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne.

Historical Note

Section R18-2-606 renumbered from R18-2-406 effective November 15, 1993 (Supp. 93-4).

R18-2-607. Storage Piles

- A. No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit organic or inorganic dust producing material to be stacked, piled, or otherwise stored without taking reasonable precautions such as chemical stabilization, wetting, or covering to prevent excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- B. Stacking and reclaiming machinery utilized at storage piles shall be operated at all times with a minimum fall of material and in such manner, or with the use of spray bars and wetting agents, as to prevent excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne.

Historical Note

Section R18-2-607 renumbered from R18-2-407 effective November 15, 1993 (Supp. 93-4).

R18-2-804. Roadway and Site Cleaning Machinery

- A. No person shall cause, allow or permit to be emitted into the atmosphere from any roadway and site cleaning machinery smoke or dust for any period greater than 10 consecutive seconds, the opacity of which exceeds 40%. Visible emissions when starting cold equipment shall be exempt from this requirement for the first 10 minutes.
- B. In addition to complying with subsection (A), no person shall cause, allow or permit the cleaning of any site, roadway, or alley without taking reasonable precautions to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne. Reasonable precautions may include applying dust suppressants. Earth or other material shall be removed from paved streets onto which earth or other material has been transported by trucking or earth moving equipment, erosion by water or by other means.

Historical Note

Adopted effective February 26, 1988 (Supp. 88-1). Amended effective September 26, 1990 (Supp. 90-3). Amended effective February 3, 1993 (Supp. 93-1). Former Section R18-2-804 renumbered to Section R18-2-904, new Section R18-2-804 renumbered from R18-2-604 effective November 15, 1993 (Supp. 93-4).



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region
P. O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87305



MC 620: Division of Environmental, Cultural & Safety Management

JUL 20 2010

Mr. Joshua A. Bundick
Wallops Flight Facility NEPA Manager
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337



Dear Mr. Bundick:

EA-10-112

The Navajo Region Division of Environmental, Cultural, and Safety Management (DECSM) received a copy of the programmatic environmental assessment (PEA), EA-10-112, NASA Scientific Balloon Program: Programmatic Environmental Assessment issued June 2010.

Our review of your document resulted in no comments being generated at this time. We would suggest that you include the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife in the future to comment on your project in relation to wildlife and plant species that may be of concern that the balloons and their payload could potentially have impacts on.

Thank you for including us in your review process.

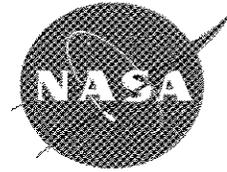
If you have questions, you may contact Ms. Harrilene J. Yazzie, Regional NEPA Coordinator, at (505) 863-8287.

Sincerely,

ACTING Regional Director, Navajo

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

**Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337**



Reply to Attn of: 250.W

June 11, 2010

Texas Historical Commission
PO Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276



Dear Reader:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed increase in scientific balloon launch and flight operations originating from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facilities located in Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Palestine, Texas. NASA respectfully requests that you review and provide comments on the enclosed Draft PEA and Draft FONSI by Friday, July 16, 2010, or within 30 days of the publication of the documents' Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*, whichever is later.

Please contact me at (757) 824-2319, or Ms. Shari Silbert at (757) 824-2327, if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua A. Bundick".

Joshua A. Bundick
Wallops Flight Facility NEPA Manager

Enclosure

NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED PROJECT MAY PROCEED	
by	
for Mark Wolfe	
State Historic Preservation Officer	
Date	7/13/10
Track#	201014464



THE NAVAJO NATION

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
PRESIDENT

BEN SHELLY
VICE-PRESIDENT

July 21, 2010

Joshua A. Bundick, Wallops Flight Facility NEPA Manager
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA 23337



Dear Mr. Bundick:

Our apology for an oversight and missing the deadline date of our response to your request, and that the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department – Traditional Culture Program (NNHPD-TCP) is in receipt of the proposed project regarding a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed increase in scientific balloon launch and flight operations originating from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facilities located in Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Palestine, Texas.

After reviewing your consultation documents, HPD-TCP has concluded the proposed undertaking/project area **will not impact** Navajo traditional cultural properties. The NNHPD-TCP, on behalf of the Navajo Nation has no concerns at this time.

However, the determination made by the HPD-TCP does not necessarily mean that the Navajo Nation has no interest or concerns with the proposed project. If the proposed project inadvertently discovers habitation sites, plant gathering areas, human remains and objects of cultural patrimony the HPD-TCP request that we be notified respectively in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The HPD-TCP appreciates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's consultation efforts, pursuant to 36 CFR Pt. 800.1 (c)(2)(iii). Should you have any additional concerns and/or questions, do not hesitate to contact me electronically at tonyjoe@navajo.org or telephone at 928-871-7750. Mr. Kelly Francis will be taking over all Section 106 Consultations soon within the near future.

Sincerely,

Tony H. Joe, Jr., Supervisory Anthropologist (*Section 106 Consultations*)
Historic Preservation Department – Traditional Culture Program

TCP 10-568
CC: Office File/Chrono



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm



IN REPLY REFER TO:

10CC067
1790 (P0200)

July 30, 2010

Mr. Joshua A. Bundick
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337



Dear Mr. Bundick:

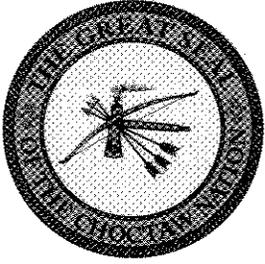
This is in reply to your letter dated June 11, 2010, on the proposal to increase in scientific balloon launch and flight operations originating from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility located in Fort Sumner, NM, and Palestine, TX.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your "draft NASA Scientific Balloon Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment." Under normal circumstances, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would consider the proposed retrieval activity as casual use (no permit required). However, because of recent land use allocations through our planning efforts, we will need NASA to contact the BLM before retrievals are conducted on public land. At the time of notification, the BLM will provide NASA with instructions on how to minimize or avoid impacts to public land resources. Examples of situations we will need you to avoid are sensitive areas (ie., playas, caves, steep slopes, and fragile soils), and habitat for candidate species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

If you have further questions, please contact the Roswell Field Office at (575) 627-0272 or the Carlsbad Field Office at (575) 234-5972.

Sincerely,

Linda S.C. Rundell
State Director



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1210 • Durant, OK 74702-1210 • (580) 924-8280

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

June 18, 2010



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337

Dear Joshua A. Bundick:

We have reviewed the following proposed project (s) as to its effect regarding religious and/or cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking of the projects area of potential effect.

Project Description: Columbia Scientific Balloon Facilities

County: Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Palestine Texas

Comments: Thank you for seeking to consult with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma on this project. However, it is located outside of our areas of historical interest. If we may be of any further assistance, or if you would like a list of states and counties, in which we do have a historical interest, please contact us at 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2137.

Sincerely,

Terry D. Cole
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

By: 
Caren A. Johnson
Administrative Assistant

CAJ: