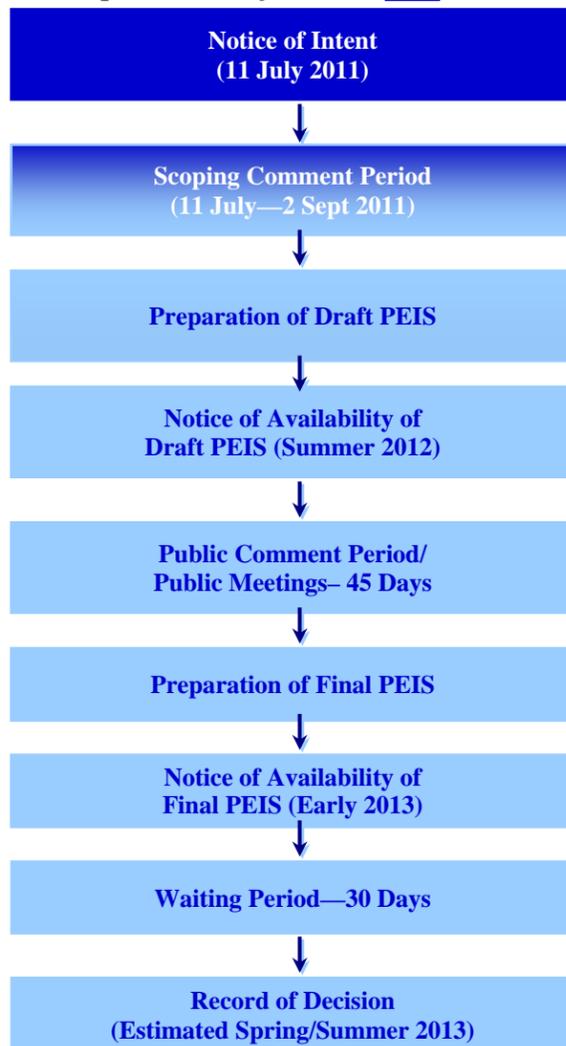


## The National Environment Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes a framework for considering environmental values early in the Federal decision making process. Public involvement is an essential part of the process. Through involving the public and completing detailed environmental analysis, the NEPA process helps the decision-maker arrive at the best possible informed decision.

WFF is seeking public input as well as seeking any suggestions the public might have for the proposed activities to be addressed in this PEIS. To accomplish the environmental analysis, WFF will collect data, conduct research, and analyze potential impacts associated with the proposed action. Resources such as airspace management, air quality, noise, wildlife habitat, and historic properties will be examined. The type and extent of impacts resulting from the proposed action will be identified. The degree to which these impacts might potentially affect resources will be analyzed and presented in the PEIS which will be made available for public view and comment.

Accomplished thus far:



## How Can You Be Involved?

Your involvement in the decision-making process is important to NASA. There are many ways to submit a comment on the project:

1. Fill out a comment form at public information meeting and give to representative
2. Website: [http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/site-wide\\_eis.html](http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/site-wide_eis.html)
3. Comments can be mailed to the following address:

Ms. Shari Silbert  
NASA Wallops Flight Facility  
Environmental Office Code 250  
Wallops Island, VA 23337  
Shari.A.Silbert@nasa.gov  
Phone (757) 824-2327; Fax (757) 824-1819

To ensure consideration, please provide your comments no later than **September 2, 2011**.



# FACT SHEET

August 2011

## Wallops Flight Facility Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) is preparing a Site-wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that will assess land use changes at WFF required to support and current and future program missions.



### Why does WFF Need a Site-wide PEIS?

For over 65 years, WFF has launched thousands of research vehicles in the quest for information on the flight characteristics of airplanes, launch vehicles, and spacecraft, and to increase the knowledge of the Earth's upper atmosphere and the near space environment. In keeping with the principles, goals and guidelines of the 2010 National Space Policy, WFF not only fulfills its own mission, but also provides unique services to NASA, commercial customers, defense, and academia. The flight programs and projects supported by WFF range from small sounding rockets, scientific balloons, manned and unmanned (unmanned aerial systems) aircraft, test and experimental aircraft, space shuttle and orbital tracking, next-generation launch vehicle development, expendable launch vehicles, and small and mid-size orbital launch spacecraft.

In January 2005, NASA issued a Final Site-wide Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact for activities at WFF. However, since then substantial growth has occurred and NASA has prepared several supplemental NEPA documents. Additionally, WFF has recently updated its 20-year Master Plan, which proposed several new facilities and numerous infrastructure improvements. As such, NASA is initiating the preparation of one consolidated Site-wide PEIS for its current and future missions and operations.

## What is the Proposed Action?

The Site-wide PEIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from a range of reasonable alternatives that meet NASA's need to ensure continued growth at WFF while also preserving the ability to safely conduct its historical baseline of operations. Currently under consideration are two action alternatives and a No Action alternative. Under the **No Action Alternative**, the level of activity at WFF would remain at present levels. WFF is seeking your input to facilitate the development of these action alternatives.

### Alternative 1

Alternative 1 would support:

- A number of facility projects ranging from new construction, demolition, and renovation identified in the Master Plan
- Enlargement of restricted airspace at the Main Base
- Addition of two rocket launchers on Wallops Island
- Replacement of the Wallops causeway bridge
- Maintenance dredging between the boat docks at the Main Base and Wallops Island
- Introduction of new opportunities and expansion of existing NASA and Department of Defense (DoD) programs at WFF including expansion of Navy pilot proficiency training and Broad Aerial Maritime Surveillance



### Alternative 2

Alternative 2 would include all activities described in Alternative 1, plus:

- Additional construction projects not identified in the Master Plan
- Introduction of several new mission opportunities to include manned space flight from WFF
- Participation in a land use exchange with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that would enable the operation of a low-impact, temporary launch pad on the northernmost 300 meters (1,000 feet) of USFWS- owned Assawoman Island in exchange for the conservation of a NASA-owned wooded, upland parcel south of the Wallops Visitor Center adjacent to the Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge



## Cooperating Agencies

NASA, as the lead agency for preparation of the PEIS, has requested the cooperation of several tenant and partner agencies. A cooperating agency is a government agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise regarding the environmental impact of a proposal. The following Federal agencies have agreed to be cooperating agencies on the Site-Wide PEIS:

- Federal Aviation Administration (Commercial Space, Air Traffic)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Navy (NAVAIR and NAVSEA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## NASA Wallops Flight Facility

WFF is located in the northeastern portion of Accomack County, VA, on the Delmarva Peninsula, and is comprised of the Main Base, Wallops Mainland, and Wallops Island.

