UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 1 1 2011

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment for Proposed Electrical and Operational Upgrade, Space Addition, and Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Installation Projects at the Wallops Command and Data Acquisition Station (WCDAS), Wallops, Virginia

LOCATION: Wallops Command and Data Acquisition Station, Wallops, Virginia

SUMMARY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates the WCDAS as a tenant on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). WCDAS gathers weather and other environmental data from satellites via radio downlinks, and controls satellites via transmission of radio signals. Proposed upgrades to the WCDAS site-wide electrical systems, infrastructure, and antenna systems are required to support new satellite mission requirements and ensure reliable operations for the foreseeable future. This action will not result in any significant impacts on the human environment. Short-term impacts from construction, including economic impacts, are expected, but are not considered significant.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Mary E. Kicza
Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services
National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration
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301-713-3578

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting environmental assessment (EA) is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the responsible official named above.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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