

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 17, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the  
EcoVision2007 Gala Dinner on April 18-19, 2007

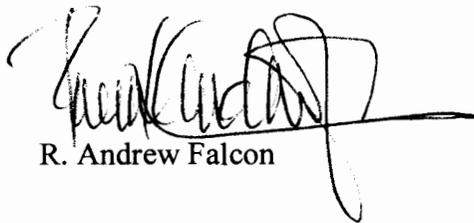
EcoVision2007 is a unique Conference and Gala defining a new path forward for the implementation of environmental and energy technologies. This conference will be held during the week of Earth Day at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC, on April 17-19, 2007. The sponsors of this conference are: Northrop Grumman Corp., NOAA, Discovery Channel, Planet Earth, General Motors, Inc., Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Ford Motor Co., Wildlife Society, International Paper, International league of Conservation Photographers, National Geographic, The Soap and Detergent Association, and EarthEcho International. The Gala Dinner is on April 18, and lunch on April 19, where NASA employees have been invited.

The dinner features keynote addresses by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, author of the upcoming book 'The Contract with the Earth,' and Congressman Mark Udall of Colorado (D-CO), Chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science and Technology and Co-Chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus. The lunch keynote speaker will be the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher.

These events will be widely attended by representative from other Federal agencies, members of Congress and their staffers, Hill Staff, aerospace industry and associations, and environmental organizations. Approximately 300 to 400 individuals have been invited to these events. The estimated cost of the gala and lunch, which includes all food and beverages, is \$120 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the gala and lunch because it will further Agency programs or operations. These events will allow NASA employees the opportunity to discuss water conservation and sustainability, waste reduction, patents and emerging technologies and how NASA programs can advance these areas with other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect any of the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the dinner and lunch.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Andrew Falcon