National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

January 18, 2008

Reply to Attn of

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at Events Related to the American Meteorological Society Meeting, January 20 – January 24, 2008

On January 21, 2008, representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a reception in conjunction with the American Meteorological Society (AMS) 88th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Five industry teammates from GOES-R, including the Boeing Co., Harris Corp., Carr Astronautics, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell, ERT, RSIS, and Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc., will sponsor the evening reception at Generations Hall. The AMS meeting will be held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center from January 20 to 24, 2008.

The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Program (GOES) is a joint effort of NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All AMS participants are invited and approximately 600-700 people are expected to attend. The maximum benefit per employee would be approximately $70. Attendees will include members of the aerospace industry, government, and academia.

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 event because it will allow individuals from a broad spectrum of industry and government to exchange knowledge and ideas on meteorological technology and scientific advancements. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event 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.

Adam F. Greenstone