

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**John C. Stennis Space Center**  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000



April 18, 2008

Reply to the Attn: **RA02**

Mr. Craig Crawley  
Studio South Architects  
3690 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pascagoula, MS 39567

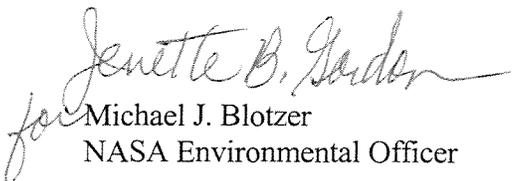
Dear Mr. Crawley:

The Preliminary Environmental Survey for "USM Oceanographic Support Facility" has been reviewed. Based on the information that you have provided on that checklist and comparison to the Stennis Space Center (SSC) Environmental Resources Document, a Record of Environmental Consideration is enclosed. Attention to the following steps will aid in insuring SSC's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:

1. Implement required actions.
2. File a copy of the Record of Environmental Consideration in the appropriate design and construction folder(s).
3. NASA Environmental Management must be notified in the event any change occurs that alters the Preliminary Environmental Survey.

If you should have any questions, please contact Carolyn Kennedy at 228-688-1445.

Sincerely,

  
for Michael J. Blotzer  
NASA Environmental Officer

Enclosure

cc:

NASA/Hugh Carr  
Jacobs Technology/Wendy Robinson

## RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) requires under Section 102 that all Federal agencies consider environmental effects of proposed actions. The Act also specifies under Section 103 that Federal agencies adopt both administrative regulations and policies and procedures to ensure decisions are made in accordance with the purposes and provisions of NEPA. In response to Section 103, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has developed a procedural requirements document NPR 8580.1, Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114. The Stennis Space Center (SSC) procedures are incorporated into the SSC Environmental Operations and Implementation Program Procedures and Guidelines (SPR 8500.2).

The SSC Environmental Resources Document (ERD) describes the current environment and the impacts of NASA operations at SSC. The ERD provides information on the environmental aspects that would normally be included in an environmental impact statement. It is the reference document used in preparing this Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).

An REC may indicate that an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement will need to be prepared to address environmental impacts. An REC may also indicate that the program or project falls under a NASA designated Categorical Exclusion if the actions associated with the program or project do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment.

Preliminary Environmental Study Control Number: 08-057

Project Description: This project is for construction of University of Southern Mississippi Center for Marine Science Oceanographic Support Facility. The facility will serve as a base for research and sea-going vessels. The building will be approximately 16,000 square feet housing 11,000 square feet of shops/storage and 5,000 square feet of research/classroom space. There will be a laydown area around the south end of the building for storage of vans and other equipment. The location will be south of Buildings 1020 and 1022 and require approximately 2.5 acres. There will be storage of some chemicals associated with boat maintenance and there will be usage of water for washing of boats and vehicles. Oil removed from boats during maintenance will be collected and recycled.

### Consideration:

- The project will require **timber removal** at the construction site.
- The area of the proposed site will **impact wetlands** and will require mitigation.
- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality **Small Construction Storm Water General Permit** regulations must be followed and will be the responsibility the USM.
- Chemicals must be properly stored according to the NASA Environmental Integrated Contingency Plan.
- The **waste water** from washing boats and vehicles must be directed to a sump that is directed to the sanitary sewer system. The waste water may not be directed to a ditch. If oily water will be a result of cleaning boats and vehicles then an oil/water separator will be required.
- The new building will utilize the SSC drinking water system and sewage system. Prior to tapping into the SSC **drinking water system**, authorization must be requested from the Mississippi Department of Health. This will be the responsibility of USM.

Action:

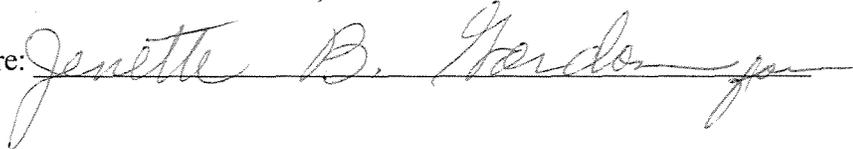
- The proposed site must be inspected for timber removal and wetlands impacts. This can be accomplished by calling Hugh Carr, NASA Natural Resources Manager, at 228-688-2466.
- Prepare a Small Construction Storm Water Permit Notice of Intent and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan according to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality regulations.
- Ensure proper collection and disposal of wash water for boats and vehicles.
- Obtain authorization from the Mississippi Department of Health for tapping into the SSC drinking water system

Otherwise, there will be no further environmental action necessary for NASA's compliance with NEPA.

Date: 4/18/2008

Name: MICHAEL J. BLOTZER, ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jenette B. Gordon", written over a horizontal line.