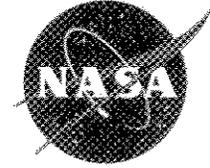


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 19, 2011

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 National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) reception on January 21, 2011

On January 21, 2011, the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the National Aquarium, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C. from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. The reception is intended to provide participants of the 2011 Winter Business Meeting of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD), an NCSE program, an opportunity to promote dialogue between academic leaders and multiple stakeholders at Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Approximately 260 people have been invited to attend, including representatives from NASA, other Federal agencies, academia, and nonprofit organizations and associations. The estimated cost of the reception, including all food and beverages, is \$40.00 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a “widely attended gathering” as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs.

NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the NCSE, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the NCSE, 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