National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

January 24, 2012

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting on January 24 - 25, 2012

On January 24 - 25, 2012, the American Meteorological Society (AMS), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, will host its 92nd AMS Annual Meeting at Hilton Riverside Hotel, Room Compass in New Orleans, Louisiana. A breakfast and dinner are being held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of AMS.

Approximately 200 people have been invited to attend from sectors throughout the meteorological profession, including heads of national weather services worldwide, as well as from the World Meteorological Organization leadership. I find that these events meet 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 these events because they will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs.

NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect AMS, 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 for free attendance to these event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect AMS, 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