

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 16, 2016

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 Coalition for Deep Space Exploration Reception on February 22, 2016

On February 22, 2016, the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration will host a reception at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C. at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the reception is to provide a venue for industry, government, policymakers, academics and associations to discuss topics related to the space exploration and science.

Approximately 250 people have been invited to attend, including members of Congress and their staff, personnel from the academia and industry, and employees of other Federal agencies. The estimated average value of refreshments served at the event, including all food and refreshments, \$25 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 NASA programs and hear views that relate to NASA's policies and plans from representatives of various sectors. Accordingly, NASA employees, including NASA employees who are in non-career positions which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance to this event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event hosts, such as by way of contracting duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in these events from their local ethics counselor to attend under the widely attended gathering exception.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone