

## NASA INVITES COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED MARS 2020 MISSION AND ANNOUNCES SCOPING MEETINGS



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed launch of the Mars 2020 mission. The mission would fly a near-duplicate of the Mars Science Laboratory mission's rover, Curiosity, outfitted with new scientific instruments. The Mars 2020 mission would be designed to seek signs of past life on Mars, collect and store a set of soil and rock samples that could be returned to Earth in the future, and test new technology to benefit future robotic and human exploration of Mars.

The Mars 2020 mission would launch during the summer of 2020 from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Brevard County, Florida, on a launch vehicle that has yet to be selected. The baseline electrical power source for the Mars 2020 rover, as with Curiosity, would be a Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG). This power source uses the heat from the natural decay of plutonium-238 to generate electricity for the rover and its instruments, and to help keep onboard systems at proper operating temperatures on Mars. Solar power options are also being considered as an electrical power source for the Mars 2020 rover.

The Mars 2020 Mission EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, implementing the Mars 2020 mission, and alternatives to the proposed action. Impacts associated with a normal launch as well as the potential consequences of accident scenarios will be addressed. NASA is seeking input on environmental issues and concerns associated with the proposed action, as well as alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. NASA invites the public to attend the following scoping meetings to learn more about the mission, and provide verbal or written comments on the proposed scope and content of the Mars 2020 Mission EIS. Verbal and written comments will be given equal consideration.

<b>Mars 2020 Mission EIS Public Scoping Meetings</b> (6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. EDT)		
<b>October 9, 2013</b> Cocoa Beach Country Club 5000 Tom Warriner Blvd Cocoa Beach, FL 32931	<b>October 10, 2013*</b> Brevard County Government Center 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940  <i>* To be televised on Space Coast Government TV</i>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b> – Speak informally with NASA officials and technical staff and review mission information. Register to provide verbal comments. <b>7:00 p.m.</b> – Hear presentations, followed by an opportunity for public comment. <b>8:30 p.m.</b> – Meeting adjourns.

Anyone requiring special accommodations to attend a meeting should contact NASA by telephone at (202) 358-0016 or via email at [mars2020-nepa@lists.nasa.gov](mailto:mars2020-nepa@lists.nasa.gov) no later than one week prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

### Opportunities to Comment

The scoping period will end on October 30, 2013. Written comments may be submitted by:  
**U.S. Mail:** Mr. George Tahu, Planetary Science Division, Science Mission Directorate, Mail Suite 3E46, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546-0001  
**Email:** [mars2020-nepa@lists.nasa.gov](mailto:mars2020-nepa@lists.nasa.gov)

For additional information on the Mars 2020 Mission EIS, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/agency/nepa/mars2020eis>

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



**NASA Headquarters**

Planetary Science Division  
Science Mission Directorate  
Mail Suite 3E46  
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Official Business

---

# Mars 2020 Mission

NASA Invites Comments on Potential Environmental Impacts of the  
Proposed Mars 2020 Mission and Announces Scoping Meetings

