

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

Capturing Decadal Survey Lessons Learned 2011-03-01 (SC-01)

Recommendation:

NASA should request a formal examination by the National Research Council (NRC) of the lessons learned, from the perspective of the National Academies, from recent NASA-related decadal surveys. Planning for this examination should be initiated after the release of the Heliophysics Decadal Survey in early 2012, and this examination should make recommendations about the next cycle of decadal surveys, which will begin circa 2015.

Major Reasons for the Recommendation:

Lessons learned, from NASA's perspective, are being captured. But the lessons learned, from the perspective of the National Academies, are also vital to maintaining the importance and continued value of the decadal surveys.

Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:

The collection and examination of lessons learned will become more difficult with the passage of time, and the failure to capture these lessons could adversely affect the importance and continued value of future decadal surveys.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs with this recommendation. The Science Mission Directorate has had initial discussions with the NRC about a workshop exploring decadal survey lessons learned. The focus and scope of such a workshop will be determined. The Space Studies Board has suggested November 2012 for a workshop, but optimal timing for the activity will depend in part on the release and assessment of the impacts of the new Heliophysics survey, which is presently under development and projected for completion in March 2012.