

## **Notice of Availability**

### **Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Launches Involving Radioisotope Heater Units**

#### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) that evaluates the use of radioisotope heater units (RHUs) in spacecraft launched from Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) in Brevard County, Florida. RHUs have been used in space missions since the 1960s. Under the Proposed Action, NASA would continue to use RHUs for heat sources in space missions when the use of solar or other technologies would be infeasible or when the use of an RHU would enhance the ability of the mission to meet its science goals. The programmatic document would be applied each time an RHU is used in a space mission, if certain parameters are met. NASA is the lead federal agency for this action with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) serving as cooperating agencies. The PEA found that the proposed action would not result in or contribute to significant negative direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the environment.

Public comments will be accepted through October 9, 2019 and can be submitted via email to Tina Norwood at [tina.norwood@nasa.gov](mailto:tina.norwood@nasa.gov) or the address below. Copies of the draft PEA are available at the following library locations: Central Brevard Library and Reference Center (308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa FL), Cocoa Beach Public Library (550 N Brevard Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL), Melbourne Library (540 E Fee Ave., Melbourne, FL), Merritt Island Public Library (1195 N Courtenay Pkwy., Merritt Island, FL), Port St John Public Library (6500 Carole Ave., Cocoa, FL), Titusville Public Library (2121 S Hopkins Ave., Titusville, FL), Satellite Beach Public Library (751 Jamaica Blvd., Satellite Beach, FL), and NASA Headquarters Library (300 E Street SW [East Lobby - Room 1J20], Washington, D.C.). The PEA will also be posted on the NASA NEPA Library on September 8, 2019 <https://www.nasa.gov/emd/nepa-public-reviews>.

For additional information and written comments, please contact:

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