

The pathways include both orbital and landed missions designed to examine the global diversity of the planet, or designed to focus on exploration of surface and shallow subsurface polar ices and sediments, including the return of samples from the surface of Mars. The decision to follow a particular science pathway would be driven by the importance of prior discoveries in the MEP.

NASA plans to address the environmental impacts of the MEP through a two-tiered NEPA process. The Tier 1 EIS will discuss the overall purpose and need for the MEP. Because this Tier 1 EIS is being prepared during the planning stages for the MEP, specific proposed projects and missions within the MEP would only be addressed in terms of a broad, conceptual framework. Those missions within the MEP that do not propose the use of radioisotope heater units or radioisotope power systems would be candidate missions for routine payload designation under the EA and FONSI published by NASA (67 FR 41525, June 18, 2002). Those missions proposed within the MEP that could utilize radioisotope heater units or radioisotope power systems and those missions involving return of Martian samples to Earth would be the subject of separate Tier 2 environmental documentation, using the best available information and analysis directly related to that mission. While detailed analyses and test data for each spacecraft-launch vehicle combination is not yet available, significant safety data and experience from previous programs are available to NASA to enable consideration of whether to continue planning for the use of radioisotope heater units and radioisotope power systems for these proposed missions.

Alternatives to be considered in the Tier 1 EIS will include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- The proposed MEP, which would include orbital and landed missions, some of which may utilize radioisotopes for heat and power, and may return Martian samples to Earth; and
- The No Action Alternative, by which NASA would not implement a coordinated MEP, but would continue to explore Mars on a less comprehensive, mission-by-mission basis.

The Tier 1 EIS will address the purpose and need for the proposed MEP and the program-level environmental impacts associated with its implementation. The environmental impacts of this program are anticipated

to be those associated with the normal launch of the missions, both individually and cumulatively.

Written public input and comments on alternatives, environmental impact issues, and environmental concerns associated with the Mars Exploration Program are hereby requested.

**Jeffrey E. Sutton,**

*Assistant Administrator for Management Systems.*

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## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NARA is giving public notice that the agency proposes to request approval of a one-time information collection, a survey of small business records centers. The survey information will be used by the NARA policy and technical staff who are conducting a review of our regulation on records center facility standards (36 CFR part 1228, subpart K). The public is invited to comment on the proposed information collection pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before September 22, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Regulation Comment Desk (NPOL), Room 4100, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd. College Park, MD 20740-6001; or faxed to 301-837-0319; or electronically mailed to [comments@nara.gov](mailto:comments@nara.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection and supporting statement should be directed to Nancy Allard at telephone number 301-837-1477, or fax number 301-837-0319.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), NARA invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed information collections. The comments and suggestions should address one or more of the following points: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper

performance of the functions of NARA; (b) the accuracy of NARA's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of information technology. In commenting on the accuracy of NARA's estimate of the burden, we also request your comments on the average hourly salary cost for the individuals who would complete the survey. The comments that are submitted will be summarized and included in the NARA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

In this notice, NARA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

*Title:* Records Storage Facility Survey.

*OMB number:* New.

*Agency form number:* None.

*Type of review:* Regular.

*Affected public:* Owners/operators of commercial records storage facilities that are small businesses.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 263.

*Estimated time per response:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of response:* One-time.

*Estimated total annual burden hours:* 66 hours.

**Abstract:** The information collection is a survey of the characteristics of records storage facilities operated by small businesses. Respondents will be a random sample of owners/operators of such facilities. The survey information will be used by the NARA policy and technical staff to evaluate the construction materials, fire protection measures, and storage practices common in small business records centers against the existing standards in the NARA regulation on records center facility standards (36 CFR part 1228, subpart K). The information will be used in a regulatory flexibility analysis of possible alternatives to the existing standards and assessment of the ability of small business to comply with those alternatives.

Dated: July 16, 2003.

**Nancy Y. Allard,**

*NARA Federal Register Liaison.*

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