

[Notice (95-001)]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Space Science Advisory Committee (SScAC), Astrophysics Subcommittee (ASC); Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a forthcoming meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Space Science Advisory Committee, Astrophysics Subcommittee.

DATES: Thursday, February 9, 1995, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, February 10, 1995, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: NASA Headquarters, Conference Room MIC 7-A/B West, 300 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20546.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Guenter Riegler, Code SZ, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, 202/358-0339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

- Overview of Astrophysics Division Status
- Status of NASA HQ Streamlining/Reorganization
- Branch Reports
- Mission Reports
- Senior Review Results
- Briefing on Educational Strategic Planning
- Discussion and Formulation of Recommendations/Action Items

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: January 9, 1995.

Timothy M. Sullivan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT

Environmental Statements; Availability, etc.: Washington, D.C., Sport and Entertainment Arena Construction and Operation

AGENCY: National Capital Planning Commission and District of Columbia Government.

ACTION: Proposed construction and operation of a sports and entertainment arena in Washington, D.C.; public meeting and intent to prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and in accordance with the Environmental Policies and Procedures implemented by the National Capital Planning Commission (Commission), the Commission, and the District of Columbia Government announce their intent to conduct one (1) public meeting to discuss a new sports and entertainment arena in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the public meeting is to determine the significant issues related to the construction and operation of the arena. The meeting will serve as part of the formal environmental review/scoping process for the preparation of the environmental document that is required for this project.

This Notice of Intent (NOI) initiates the formal environmental review/scoping process for this project and the public is encouraged to submit written comments on the alternatives and on the impacts at this time. A comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) is considered to be the appropriate environmental document for this project and it is expected that completion of an EA will discharge all obligations under Federal environmental laws. If it becomes apparent, however, through the environmental review process that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary, one will be prepared and a Supplemental Notice informing the public of this change will be issued. In addition, the comments and responses received on the scope of the alternative and potential impacts, as a result of this NOI, will be considered for the environmental document, whether it is ultimately an EA or an EIS, although, as mentioned an EA is considered to be the appropriate environmental document. Therefore, this is an announcement for the environmental review/scoping meeting for this project.

The proposed sports and entertainment arena would seat a maximum of approximately 23,000 persons and would be located in downtown Washington, D.C. The site includes the following: Square 455 which is bounded by G Street NW, 6th Street NW, F Street NW and 7th Street NW; the right-of-way for the 600 block of G Street NW and, approximately, the southern fifth of Square 454 which is

bounded by H Street NW, 6th Street NW, G Street NW and 7th Street NW. The proposed sports and entertainment arena is scheduled to be completed in time for the 1997 basketball and hockey seasons.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) will identify and analyze impacts and mitigation options of the alternative actions under consideration. At present, those alternatives may include: (1) Construction and operation of a new sports and entertainment arena at the Gallery Place site; (2) construction and operation of a new sports and entertainment arena at the Union Station air rights site; and (3) a No Action Alternative, which would result in no new construction. Topics for environmental analysis include short-term construction-related impacts; long-term changes in traffic, parking, socio-economic impacts, land use and physical/biologic conditions within the project area; historic and visual resource protection; and site operations and maintenance.

The environmental review/scoping process will include all written comments and one (1) public meeting for the purpose of determining significant issues related to the alternatives and to the potential impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of the sports and entertainment arena. The public meeting will be held at:

Monday, February 13, 1995 at the D.C. Convention Center, Rooms 30 and 31, at 900 9th Street N.W. at 7:00 PM

This public meeting will be advertised in local and regional newspapers. Adequate signs will be posted to direct meeting participants. A short formal presentation will precede the request for public comments. National Capital Planning Commission and District of Columbia representatives will be available at this meeting to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern. It is important that Federal, regional and local agencies, and interested individuals and groups take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the Draft EA. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to five (5) minutes. A document summarizing the written and oral comments received will be prepared.

An Informational Packet will be available for inspection at the offices of the National Capital Planning Commission at 801 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., D.C. Public Libraries, the