

## 2005 Current Fiscal Year Report: Planetary Protection Advisory Committee

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	2005
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Planetary Protection Advisory Committee	10722

<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	04/29/2005	04/29/2007	

<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
Yes	NASA Strategic Management Council, Meeting Minutes	09/20/2005

<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Terminate	No	Enacted

**11. Establishment Authority** Agency Authority

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
Public 85-568, As Amended, Section 203 (c)(7)	04/24/1997	Continuing	No

**15. Description of Committee** Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** 2

<b>16b. Report Date</b>	<b>Report Title</b>
02/08/2005	Planetary Protection Advisory Committee Meeting Report

06/26/2005 Planetary Protection Advisory  
Committee Meeting Report

**Number of Committee Reports Listed: 2**

**17a.** 2 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 2  
**Open**

**Meetings and Dates**

Purpose	Start	End
Planetary Protection Advisory Committee Meeting	02/08/2005	02/09/2005
Planetary Protection Advisory Committee Meeting	06/26/2005	06/27/2005

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2**

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$14,000.00	\$14,400.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$19,800.00	\$20,300.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$25,200.00	\$36,500.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$2,800.00	\$5,600.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$3,400.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$16,874.00	\$33,000.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$78,674.00	\$113,200.00

<b>19. Federal Staff</b>	1.00	1.00
<b>Support Years (FTE)</b>		

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee advised the NASA Administrator through the NASA Advisory Council on Agency programs, policies, plans, and other matters pertinent to the Agency's responsibilities for biological planetary protection, as defined in NPD 8020.7, including NASA planetary protection policy documents and components, implementation plans, and organization. The Committee provided a forum for advice on interagency coordination and intergovernmental planning related to planetary protection. The Committee reviewed and recommended appropriate planetary protection categorizations for all bodies of the solar system to which spacecraft will be sent. The scope of the Committee's responsibilities did not include issues that pertain solely to the quality and interpretation of scientific experiments and data.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Committee consisted of 15 to 20 members selected to ensure a balanced representation among industry, academia, and Government. The Committee members, collectively, had the skills and capabilities to assess the issues and risks of forward and backward biological contamination for planetary missions and for biological contamination associated with the launch and return of spacecraft in interplanetary missions and their potential failure modes. At least four of the Committee members were persons knowledgeable in one or more of the fields of bioethics, law, public attitudes and the

communication of science, the Earth's environment, or related fields.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

NASA's policy on planetary protection is essential to comply with the provisions of the 1967 United Nations Outer Space Treaty, which limits contamination of other solar-system bodies as well as harmful contamination of the Earth's biosphere caused by materials from space. NASA's policy imposes constraints on spacecraft involved in solar system exploration that depend on the nature of the mission and the identity of the target body or bodies. These constraints take into account current scientific knowledge about the target bodies through recommendations from both internal and external advisory groups, but most notably from the Space Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences, which serves as the principal external advisory body in this area. In a series of recent reports, however, the Space Studies Board has called for NASA to establish, as an internally based advisory committee, a panel of experts, including representatives of relevant governmental and scientific bodies...as soon as possible once serious planning for a Mars sample-return mission has begun,...to advise NASA on the implementation of planetary protection measures for sample-return missions and an advisory committee with expertise in the planetary and biological sciences...when developing protocols and methods to examine returned samples for indicators of past or present extraterrestrial life forms. This committee was intended to meet this recommendation.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The committee provided advice on NASA's internal programs, policies, plans, and other matters pertinent to the Agency's responsibilities for planetary protection, complementing the Space Studies Board's advisory role for specific, real-time advisory requirements. Advice spanned research and technology development in the areas of exobiology and solar system exploration; environmental microbiology; microbial assay and cleaning techniques; flight systems and engineering; international and domestic environmental law; and joint activities with other pertinent government agencies. This expertise was obtained in a context that is not conflicted by recommendations to accomplish specific science objectives, but in a context where non-contamination is the goal. Anticipated advice on sample return and other NEPA-sensitive issues dictated the establishment of a FACA-sanctioned group to perform this role. This work of this group could serve as a model for later interagency/international advisory group(s) on sample return missions.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

No closed meetings were held.

**21. Remarks**

This advisory committee was terminated as part of the overall NASA advisory committee restructuring effort that took place during 2005.

**Designated Federal Officer**

John D. Rummel DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Atlas, Ronald	03/15/2002	03/15/2005	University of Louisville	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Braun, Robert	02/24/2004	02/24/2007	Georgia Institute of Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Budden, Nancy	09/10/2004	09/10/2007	Naval Postgraduate School	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cavanaugh, Colleen	03/10/2002	03/10/2005	Harvard University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Griner, Carolyn	03/13/2002	03/13/2005	None	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hunt, Debra	03/10/2002	03/10/2005	Duke University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ladwig, Alan	03/10/2002	03/10/2005	Northrop Grumman Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leonard, Debra	03/13/2002	03/13/2005	New York Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Levy, Eugene	06/01/2005	06/01/2007	Rice University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Noonan, Norine	10/01/2000	05/31/2005	College of Charleston	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pieters, Carle	03/15/2002	03/15/2005	Brown University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Priest, Susanna	05/19/2003	05/19/2006	University of South Carolina	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Robinson, George	03/13/2002	03/13/2005	Robinson and Associates Law Offices, P.C.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zoloth, Laurie	02/21/2002	02/21/2005	Northwestern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 14**

## Narrative Description

NASA's success in solar system exploration requires it to explore other worlds without biological cross-contamination. The Committee advises the NASA Administrator through the NASA Advisory Council on Agency programs, policies, plans, and other matters pertinent to the Agency's responsibilities for biological planetary protection, as defined in NPD 8020.7, including NASA planetary protection policy documents and components, implementation plans, and organization. The Committee provides a forum for advice on interagency coordination and intergovernmental planning related to planetary protection. The Committee reviews and recommends appropriate planetary protection categorizations for all bodies of the solar system to which spacecraft will be sent. The scope of the Committee's responsibilities do not include issues that pertain solely to the quality and interpretation of scientific experiments and data.

## What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Outcome Comments

NA

## What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None ☐

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

3

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

By subsequent meeting reports.



**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Reallocated resources             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Issued new regulation             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Proposed legislation              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Action Comments**

Determined specific applications of NSA's policy, and associated implementation restrictions.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Publications              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Access Comments**

NA