

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



August 19, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

Office of the General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Ethics Agency Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Grand Opening  
Dedication and Reception of "NASA @ your library", August 24, 2004

On August 24, 2004, the New Orleans Public Library will host the traveling "NASA @ your library" exhibit sponsored by NASA and the American Library Association. "NASA @ your library" was developed by the Office of Biological and Physical Research and the American Library Association. The purpose of the exhibit is to raise awareness and interest in science; encourage young people to pursue careers in science and math, and increase the visibility of NASA programs and many of their findings. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The reception will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, state and local governments, members of Congress and their staffs, industry, and education. Approximately 250 people were invited and 200 are expected to attend. Lockheed Martin will sponsor the reception. The estimated cost of food and beverage for the reception is \$20 per person. The primary focus of the exhibit is to arouse the curiosity and interest of young people in math and science; however, it is also meant to raise the awareness of the public at large about the integral role space research plays in our daily lives. This event will allow NASA employees an opportunity to discuss issues of interests with officials from other Federal agencies, members of Congress and their staffers, state and local governments, educators, and industry. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I therefore, conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the event without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

R. Andrew Falcon