

OPAG Update December 31, 2008

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May the Outer Planets and all who study them flourish in 2009!

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1. Dear Fran and the Outer Planets Analysis Group,

In addition to your support of the Planetary Sciences Subcommittee, I want to especially thank you and the OPAG for providing the NASA Advisory Council and Administrator, Mike Griffin, with your experience and expertise as the Agency and the nation move forward in space. The Analysis Groups play a unique function in the advisory structure of NASA and we are most appreciative of the time you devote to that effort.

As you know, personnel regulations kept me from continuing as Council Chair. It was a rewarding three years, believe me. I know that the new Chair, Ken Ford, will appreciate your contributions as much as I have.

A most Happy and Productive New Year to you all! If I can be of any assistance in the future, just let me know.

Jack

2. Jan 9 PSS meeting Agenda

There will be a PSS meeting on January 9 at NASA HQ in Room MIC-5. The major topic of the meeting will be the cost impacts of the MSL launch slip. The agenda is short and sweet:

8:00 Welcome and Other Administrative Matters
8:15 PSD Update
8:45 Technical Status of MSL
9:30 Overview of MSL Re-Plan
10:15 Options for Accommodating MSL Launch Slip [4]
10:45 Break
11:00 Discussion
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Public Comment Period
3:00 Break
3:15 Discussion and Formulation of Recommendation(s)

5:00 Adjourn

As always, the meeting is open to the public up to the capacity of the room. Attendees will be requested to sign a register and to comply with NASA security requirements, including the presentation of a valid picture ID, before receiving an access badge.

Foreign nationals attending this meeting will be required to provide the following information no less than seven working days prior to the meeting: full name; gender; date/place of birth; citizenship; visa/green card information (number, type, expiration date); passport information (number, country, expiration date); employer/affiliation information (name of institution, address, country, telephone); title/position of attendee.

To expedite admittance, attendees with U.S. citizenship can provide identifying information three working days in advance by contacting Marian Norris via e-mail at mnorris@nasa.gov or by telephone at (202) 358-4452.

Individuals wishing to present during the public comment period must register to do so at the start of the meeting. They will be allotted 10-15 minutes of the subcommittee's time (with the duration set by the number of commentators).

Since this announcement of this important meeting is so soon before the actual event, a dial-in number has been reserved for interested parties unable to attend in person. The teleconference number is 866-880-0098 and the attendee passcode is 2122674. Listeners who wish to ask questions should e-mail the question to me and I'll ask it at the meeting. My email address is michael.h.new@nasa.gov. Please include "[PSS]" in the subject line.

Michael New
NASA Headquarters

3. Next OPAG Meeting

The next meeting is planned for March 9-10th in the Washington, DC area.