



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

## THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

APR 30 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF/J-8  
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE, ENVIRONMENTAL  
SENSING

SUBJECT: National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System  
(NPOESS) Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM)

The NPOESS program was intended to maintain continuity and enhance environmental information by delivering an improved, affordable space-based environmental monitoring capability. Program delays, however, have jeopardized continuous access to environmental information. Therefore, the June 2006 Joint Requirements Oversight Council Memorandum (JROCM) 101-06 established priority for NPOESS system cost and schedule over the improvements to the legacy (2006 Defense Meteorological Support Program (DMSP) and Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental System (POES)) capability.

Definition of the required NPOESS capability needs clarification to reflect this change in priority as the program shifts from delivering improved capability to emphasis on the cost and schedule needed to maintain environmental information. The 2006 DMSP and POES performance values are to be considered as the threshold values for NPOESS performance. The values used in the NPOESS Integrated Operational Requirements Document II (IORD-II) shall become the objective values.

Per the Triagency Staff recommendation, the NPOESS requirements community (Joint Agency Requirements Council, Senior Users Advisory Group, and Joint Agency Requirements Group) shall define the 2006 DMSP and POES performance values in terms comparable to the performance values approved in the NPOESS IORD-II. This revised definition shall then be the basis for NPOESS Key Performance Parameters (KPP) threshold values. The Acquisition Program Baseline (APB) shall be updated to reflect these performance values, along with the CAIG estimate on Operations and Support costs, as program thresholds to fulfill the intent of the Tri-Agency agreement made in the 2006 JROCM.

The NPOESS program should continue to build to current specifications which will be the objective specifications, but should also be prepared to build to the new

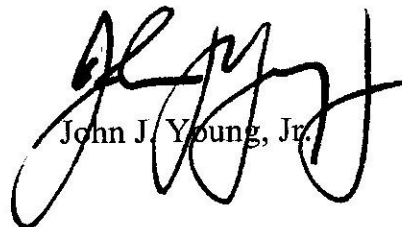


threshold requirements reflecting legacy performance levels to preserve cost and schedule goals. Performance trades to KPPs should be minimized. !

The option for a viable, competing, management structure for the NPOESS program as stated in the June 5, 2006 ADM is critical to continuation of the program. The PEO/ES shall provide to me, no later than May 14, 2008, a status report on efforts to develop a viable alternative and complete this study no later than August 31, 2008. Also, the APB, Acquisition Strategy Report (ASR), Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP), and Two Orbit Plan as described in the June 5, 2006 and June 7, 2007 ADMs shall be completed prior to August 31, 2008.

I am disappointed with the failure of NPOESS management to complete actions directed in the June 5, 2006 and June 7, 2007 ADMs. The Air Force shall continue to fully fund for costs incurred through September 30, 2008. Release of funding beyond September 30, 2008, however, will be contingent upon meeting the August 31, 2008 deadlines.

My points of contact are Dr. Chuck Frizzelle, [charles.frizzelle@osd.mil](mailto:charles.frizzelle@osd.mil), (703) 602-2720 x136 and Ms. Mona Lush, [Mona.Lush@osd.mil](mailto:Mona.Lush@osd.mil), (703) 697-0476.

  
John J. Young, Jr.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY 16 2008

Honorable John J. Young, Jr.  
Under Secretary of Defense for  
Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics  
6000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-6000

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for your Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) of April 30, 2008, concerning the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS). As one of the three NPOESS Executive Committee (EXCOM) principals, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is providing the following comments on your memorandum.

The performance thresholds to be listed in the Acquisition Program Baseline (APB) are a major issue for NPOESS. Over the past several months, the NPOESS user community defined legacy performance thresholds from the Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite program and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program. The NPOESS Joint Agency Requirements Council (JARC) met on April 28, 2008, to review the APB performance thresholds, and to address the overall issue of legacy versus Integrated Operational Requirements Document II (IORD-II) performance. The JARC unanimously agreed both legacy and IORD-II thresholds should appear in the APB. They also agreed the NPOESS program should strive to meet the original IORD-II thresholds, and the IORD-II objectives should remain as the NPOESS performance objectives. A breach will occur if legacy performance thresholds are impacted, and the EXCOM will evaluate any performance lower than the IORD-II thresholds. The EXCOM unanimously concurred with the JARC position at their May 1, 2008, meeting. I am concerned your latest ADM does not clearly state this trade space for the NPOESS program, and ask that you update the ADM to clearly delineate the trade space.

I am also concerned with the ADM statement that the APB will be updated with the Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG) "estimate on Operations and Support costs." This statement does not mention the latest CAIG estimate for the Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) and Production phases of the program. We are initiating a series of budget summits that will culminate in a Tri-Agency agreement on funding requirements to include the EMD, Production, and Operations and Support phases of the program. We anticipate finalizing these agreements during the June 2008 EXCOM with the goal of finalizing the APB submission. We would appreciate your office's participation in this process.

THE ADMINISTRATOR



Your recent ADM expressed disappointment in the "failure of the NPOESS management to complete actions" from previous ADMs. NOAA is also disappointed by this. However, I understand the documents to close these actions have been drafted for quite a long time, and the majority of the delays are due to staffing and final review within the agencies. At the May meeting, the EXCOM principals strongly encouraged their respective staffs to finish staff reviews. I ask that you echo this message to the Defense agencies responsible for the review and coordination of the remaining open documents.

NPOESS is a challenging Tri-Agency program and is important to NOAA and the Department of Commerce, as I believe it is viewed within the Department of Defense. As you prepare an update to your latest ADM, I urge you to please keep the EXCOM principals in close communication so the final oversight direction reflects the results of the EXCOM oversight process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Oceans and Atmosphere

**Folder** **RUSH**

**From** John J. [Redacted]

**Folder Manager** NOAA/ES (Group)

**Addressed To** Secretary of Commerce

**Access Right** NOAA/NESDIS

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**Signature\*** Under Secretary

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**NOAA File List**

**Date Due for LO**

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**Attachments**

Details	Description	Type	Access Right	Owner	Created Modified
<b>URGENT</b>	Incoming Memorandum	Adobe PDF	NOAA/NESDIS	Peterson, Sheryl A.	05/14/2008 05/14/2008
	Memorandum For Under Secretary	Word Document	NOAA/NESDIS	Peterson, Sheryl A.	05/14/2008 05/14/2008
	Response Letter	Word Document	NOAA/NESDIS	Peterson, Sheryl A.	05/14/2008 05/14/2008

**Assignments**

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	Review	NOAA/ES (Group)	Peterson, Sheryl A.	Active	2000	05/14/2008	05/14/2008		NOAA/ES
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	Clearance	PCO (Group)	Peterson, Sheryl A.	Pending	2200	05/14/2008	05/14/2008		NOAA/NESDIS
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*Handwritten note: elrd via email*

	(Group)	Sheryl A.	Pending	2500	05/14/2008	05/14/2008		NOAA/NESDIS
Close	NOAA/ES (Group)	Peterson, Sheryl A.	Pending	2600	05/14/2008	N/A		NOAA/ES

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