

# FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

## STEP MISSION 2

07 JAN 1993

### PROPOSED ACTION

This proposed action is a Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) Space Experiments Program effort. They propose to launch and orbit the Space Test Experiments Platform Mission 2 (STEP M2) spacecraft, for which the primary mission is the Signal Identification Experiment (SIDEX). It will fly on the PEGASUS Air-Launch Space Booster (ALS) with a Precision Injection Kit (PIK) upper stage over the Western Test Range, Vandenberg AFB CA. A B-52 aircraft, based at Edwards AFB CA., carries the launch vehicle. The payload and launch vehicle ground processing occurs at the Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards AFB. The launch will occur in late January to early February 1994, placing the spacecraft into a 450 nautical mile circular near polar orbit.

### BACKGROUND

The development of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the STEP M2 and resulting Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) came from previously written National Environmental Policy Act documents. Approval for the PEGASUS ALS EA and a FONSI occurred in September 1989 for 6 flights. Also, previously developed was a supplement to the PEGASUS EA for the PEGSAT (F-1), a supplement for the Precision Injection Kit (PIK), and the Categorical Exclusions (CATEXs) for the MICROSAT (F-2), ALEXIS (F-3), and APEX (F-4).

### FINDINGS

There were no significant impacts to the environment identified in the EA for the processing of the STEP Mission 2 at Edwards AFB. The flight of the B-52B aircraft and the launch of the PEGASUS ALS, including the PIK upper stage, were also found to have no significant impacts to the environment. Additionally, the STEP M2 will also have no significant impacts to the global environment including the stratospheric ozone layer. The orbital debris created on orbit and upon re-entry will also have no significant impact to the environment.

Based on the preceding discussion, a finding of no significant impact is made. Copies of the EA and FONSI can be obtained by writing or calling Mr. Andrew W. Rider at (310) 363-1524 at the following address:

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**Approved: HQ SMC Environmental Protection Committee**

  
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