

LEAG Annual Meeting

28-31 October, 2008
Cape Canaveral, FL,

Executive Summary

Date Prepared: 20 August

Presenter's Name: Catharine Conley
Presenter's Title: Planetary Protection Officer
Presenter's Organization/Company: NASA Headquarters

Presentation Title (brief descriptive title)

Planetary Protection for the Moon: Policy and Implementation

Key Ideas (2-3 sentences)

The purpose of planetary protection is to avoid the harmful contamination of other solar system bodies and adverse effects on the Earth from returned materials, in accordance with the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and guidelines developed by Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council for Science, an advisory body to the United Nations. NASA's Planetary Protection Policy is maintained in accordance with the Treaty and COSPAR guidelines.

Volatile materials deposited in permanently-shadowed regions at the lunar poles may record a history of solar system evolution. For this reason, the Moon has recently been determined by COSPAR to be a Category II body, which will require documentation of mission operations and an inventory of organic materials carried by visiting spacecraft.

Ensuring compliance with the Outer Space Treaty agreements on planetary protection, as elaborated by COSPAR, is the responsibility of whichever nation launches any particular mission.

Supporting Information

NASA Planetary Protection Policy:

<<http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?t=NPD&c=8020&s=7F>>

NASA Requirements for Robotic Missions:

<<http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?t=NPR&c=8020&s=12C>>

Outer Space Treaty: <<http://www.state.gov/t/ac/trt/5181.htm>>

COSPAR Planetary Protection Policy (not yet including July '08 revisions):

<<http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Scistr/Pppolicy.htm>>

NASA Planetary Protection website: <<http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/pp/>>