

NASA Advisory Council Subcommittee Recommendation

Subcommittee Name: Planetary Science

Chair: Sean Solomon

Date of Public Deliberation: 2-3 October 2008

Date of Transmission to Science Committee: 9 October 2008

Short title of the proposed Recommendation

Enhancing communication with the lunar science community.

Short description of proposed Recommendation

The PSS recommends that a formal mechanism to enhance communication between OSEWG and the lunar science community be established. The PSS further recommends that OSEWG present a regular report on lunar architecture requirements and deliberations at subcommittee meetings.

Major reasons for proposing the Recommendation

Although the PSS has been impressed by efforts of OSEWG and other elements of lunar exploration planning to achieve better communication between the lunar science and the lunar exploration architecture communities, the key to a successful exploration program that also optimizes scientific return is continuing feedback between these two communities as the exploration architecture develops. Without such interaction there is too strong a possibility that architectural decisions made in isolation will limit rather than enable the addressing of major lunar science questions, as laid out, for example, in the NRC study report on *The Scientific Context for the Exploration of the Moon*.

One way to enable improved communication is through the establishment of a standing community-based advisory committee to ESMD (in the mold of MEPAG). Another is by the direct engagement of an existing community-based committee (e.g., LEAG, CAPTEM) with ESMD. Whichever form of committee is chosen, this committee should work closely with both OSEWG and the NASA Lunar Science Institute to ensure continuous and consistent feedback to ESMD as the architecture of the Constellation Program progresses. Moreover, OSEWG should participate at regular intervals in science forums, e.g., at major scientific conferences in lunar and planetary science, to enhance exchange with the broad community.

Consequences of no action on the proposed Recommendation

In the absence of this recommendation, there exists a serious risk that the scientific value of the return to the Moon will be limited by architecture decisions made in isolation from science needs.