

APPENDIX F. Independent Reviews

F.1 Non-Advocate Review (NAR)

F.1.1 Purpose

The approval subprocess for all programs and selected projects must include a NAR which provides an independent verification of a candidate program or project's plans, LCC status, and readiness to proceed to the next phase of the program's life cycle. A NAR is conducted by a team comprised of highly knowledgeable specialists from organizations outside of the advocacy chain of the program or project being reviewed.

F.1.2 Content

A NAR provides the NASA PMC with an independent verification and evaluation of a program or selected project's readiness to proceed. The NAR shall assess the following:

- a. Compatibility with NASA policy and baselined documentation.
- b. Clarity of goals and objectives.
- c. Thoroughness/realism of technical plans, schedules, and cost estimates (including reserves and descoping options).
- d. Adequacy of management plans, including organizational structure and key personnel credentials.
- e. Technical complexity, risk assessment, and risk mitigation plans.

When an EAA is ready to have a NAR performed, the Chief Engineer will be requested to initiate the review process. The Chief Engineer will direct the IPAO at LaRC to establish the NAR team and conduct the review for presentation to the NASA PMC. To the extent possible, continuity of the team membership will be maintained from IA to NAR and carried forward to the IAR.

To effectively support the NASA PMC in its recommendations for progressing, the review team shall gain a thorough understanding of the present status and position of the program or project, as well as an understanding of the major tradeoffs and alternatives explored by the design team. The program or project shall brief the following information to the NAR team:

- a. Program/project background.
- b. Scientific and technological objectives.
- c. Formulation and implementation plans and schedules.
- d. Documentation and agreements status.
- e. Management structure and acquisition strategies.
- f. LCC estimate which includes the following:
 - (1) Funding resource requirements.
 - (2) Reserves allocations (contingency and APA).
 - (3) Workforce requirements.

- (4) Infrastructure requirements.
- (5) External contributions or partnering efforts.
- g. Program risk assessment and plans for mitigating risks.

F.1.3 Outcomes

The findings of the review shall document each of the areas above. The conclusions and recommendations will be used by NASA Senior Management in deliberations and recommendations for moving the program or project into the next phase of its development.