

8 January 2004

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is being sent to provide information regarding plans to operate a U.S. {NASA} DC-8 in Antarctica airspace on/around 9-19 March '04.

The objective of this mission is to collect interferometric topography data in the Patagonia ice fields of South America and the Antarctic Peninsula.

The NASA DC-8 is a modified version of the Douglas DC-8-72. The registration number is N817NAQ and the call sign is NASA 817. The DC-8 is currently scheduled to fly to Central America (Costa Rica) in early March and then to continue south to Chile for this mission.

During the period 9-19 March 2004, the DC-8 will stage out of Carlos Ibanez Del Campo International Airport, Chile. The aircraft will fly approximately 95 flight hours in 8 flights for approximately 8 hours each. All flights will be coordinated with the local authorities. The DC-8 will typically fly at or above 26,000 feet AGL and 420 knots TAS.

The flight plans will include multiple grid patterns of parallel lines over seven rectangular scientific areas of operation in Patagonia and the Antarctic Peninsula {see Grid boundary points, pg.2}. The aircraft will fly a predictable pattern over these sites and will be in constant communication with air traffic controllers.

DC-8 emissions are typical of a modern air transport. The potential impact to local flora and fauna from this mission will be minimized due to the high altitudes of the aircraft. Therefore, the proposed DC-8 operations will have less than minor or transitory impact on the Antarctic environment. Per U.S. regulations, an Environmental Assessment covering these flight evolutions has been prepared and is available upon request.

Best Regards,

Karl A. Erb
Director

| Title | vertex | vertex | vertex | vertex |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1)Patagonia Icefield North 1 of 3 | S46:25 W074:07 | S46:25 W073:08 | S47:33 W073:08 | S47:33 W074:07 |
| 2)Patagonia Icefield South 2 of 3 | S48:13 W074:11 | S48:13 W072:56 | S49:19 W072:56 | S49:18 W074:11 |
| 3)Patagonia Icefield South 3 of 3 | S49:18 W073:59 | S49:18 W072:59 | S51:25 W072:59 | S51:25 W073:59 |
| 4) Antarctic Peninsula 1 of 4 | S63:15 W057:52 | S63:41 W057:22 | S64:27 W060:06 | S64:06 W060:47 |
| 5) Antarctic Peninsula 2 of 4 | S63:49 W060:50 | S64:27 W059:27 | S66:49 W063:54 | S66:35 W066:24 |
| 6) Antarctic Peninsula 3 of 4 | S66:27 W066:22 | S66:32 W063:49 | S69:57 W065:02 | S69:43 W067:50 |
| 7) Antarctic Peninsula 4 of 4 | S68:51 W065:45 | S68:27 W064:38 | S69:48 W061:14 | S70:14 W062:29 |