

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Langley Research Center
Hampton, VA 23681-0001

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Reply to Attn of: 102

October 25, 1994

TO: 106/Director
FROM: 102/Deputy Director
SUBJECT: 30- x 60-Foot Tunnel

After months of consideration, involving assessment of (a) commitments to customers, (b) ability to conduct research in other facilities, and (c) deployment of human and financial resources, it is time to make and begin implementation of the difficult decision to close the 30- x 60-Foot Tunnel. This objective should be accomplished by September 1995.

There are several important factors to be considered as part of this decision:

1. The research currently conducted in the 30 x 60 will be continued to the maximum extent possible in facilities which remain operational, resulting in no change of mission for the Vehicle Dynamics Branch.
2. The research programs to be conducted in the 30 x 60 between now and September 1995 are critical to meeting commitments to NASA focused programs and to our DOD and industry partners. Completing these tests in a manner which meets our customers expectations is vital to maintaining our reputation with these customers for effectively supporting their programs. Therefore, the Langley "system" must fully support the 30 x 60 in this interim period.
3. At the same time, planning and facility development testing is underway in the 14- x 22-Foot Subsonic Tunnel to transfer the 30 x 60 dynamic model testing techniques to the 14 x 22.
4. The engineers, technicians, and data systems personnel currently assigned to the 30 x 60 have necessary expertise in these dynamic test techniques which is critical to both the completion of current tests in 30 x 60 and to transfer the testing capability. It is essential that these personnel be utilized in both facilities in the interim period and be totally focused on support of dynamic testing in the 14 x 22 following shutdown of the 30 x 60.

I am confident that the engineers in the Vehicle Dynamics Branch and the Research Facilities Branch and technicians in the 30 x 60, the 14 x 22 and all support organizations will work together in accomplishing this objective in the most effective way possible.



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