## National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 30, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity Cert. Mail No. 7007 2680 0001 2215 9989

Mr. Larry Capps Chief Executive Officer U.S. Space & Rocket Center One Tranquility Base Huntsville, AL 35805

Dear Mr. Capps:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed a compliance review of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC), a recipient of NASA financial assistance. The review was conducted pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and its implementing regulations at 14 C.F.R. Part 1251, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs receiving financial assistance through NASA. A copy of the regulations is enclosed.

Based on an evaluation of data provided by USSRC and on-site interviews and observations, we find USSRC to be in compliance with NASA's Section 504 regulations. The Center has demonstrated a strong commitment to the needs of visitors with disabilities. Through the camps that it operates for people with disabilities; its success in integrating people with disabilities into its regular operations; and its close working relationship with the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, the Center has established innovative programs responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities, and has worked collaboratively with the disability community to address problems and issues. Bringing these resources together with regular committee meetings is an excellent strategy for continuous quality improvement.

Attached is a copy of NASA's compliance report. The report identifies these and other promising practices at USSRC designed to ensure equal opportunity regardless of disability. We also provide recommendations that you may wish to consider to strengthen USSRC's existing compliance activities. NASA staff stands ready to provide further technical assistance regarding your ongoing Section 504 compliance efforts.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release the report and related records on request. If NASA receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. David Chambers, Senior Civil Rights Analyst, Program Planning and Evaluation Division, on 202-358-2128.

Sincerely,

Brenda R. Manuel, Esq. Assistant Administrator for

Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Enclosures

cc:

Clif Broderick Ralph Bryson Vicki Henderson