



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

August 5, 1971

Memorandum

For the Record

From: Glenn H. Landis, Special Assistant to the CTE

Subject: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - NASA Mississippi Test Facility
Review of Data Handling Building Plans

Mr. Dave Johnson of the Mississippi Test Facility's staff at our request reviewed the June 15, 1971 drawings of the Data Handling Building. His comments were that they had thoroughly reviewed the plans and feel that they are quite good. At the same time they reviewed the functional description and technical criteria documents from Aerospace and had two comments: 1) They felt that we should consider inclusion of emergency power for the computer in the Data Center. Their concern centers around the loss of all data currently in the core of the computer at the time of power failure. 2) They felt that the carpeting recommended by Aerospace in the computer center would do more harm than good. Their experience has been that it does not substantially suppress the noise and there is the possibility of setting up an electrical field that would interfere with computer operations. I followed up with Ralph Eicher on both subjects and his response was as follows:

- 1) The loss of data in the computer core is not a problem in that these data are retained on discs or tape and in the event of power failure he feels that an auxiliary power source is not warranted.
- 2) Eicher checked with personnel who have had carpeting in a computer center for some four or five years and their experience has been that it is not desirable. They have not had problems with the carpeting per se interfering with the computer operations but that the carpet cleaning equipment was very definitely a source of problems.

We shall, therefore, recommend that no auxiliary power be provided at this time and the carpeting in the computer center be eliminated.

cc: EROS Task Force members
EROS Reading File
Topo File