



**Impacts of Suspending Activity before April 30, 2009  
That Would Preclude Extending Space Shuttle Operations**

**pursuant to  
Section 611(d) of the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-422)**

**April 2009**

## **BACKGROUND**

Section 611(d) of the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-422) requires that NASA submit to Congress a report on the budgetary and programmatic impacts of suspending activities which, if continued between the date of enactment of P.L. 110-422 and April 30, 2009, would preclude the option of continuing Space Shuttle operations beyond 2010. Specifically, Section 611(d) requires:

*(d) TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD PRECLUDE CONTINUED FLIGHT OF SPACE SHUTTLE PRIOR TO REVIEW BY THE INCOMING 2009 PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION.—*

*(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall terminate or suspend any activity of the Agency that, if continued between the date of enactment of this Act and April 30, 2009, would preclude the continued safe and effective flight of the Space Shuttle after fiscal year 2010 if the first President inaugurated on January 20, 2009, were to make a determination to delay the Space Shuttle's scheduled retirement.*

*(2) REPORT ON IMPACT OF COMPLIANCE.—Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide a report to the Congress describing the expected budgetary and programmatic impacts from compliance with paragraph (1). The report shall include—*

*(A) a summary of the actions taken to ensure the option to continue space shuttle flights beyond the end of fiscal year 2010 is not precluded before April 30, 2009;*

*(B) an estimate of additional costs incurred by each specific action identified in the summary provided under subparagraph (A);*

*(C) a description of the proposed plan for allocating those costs among anticipated fiscal year 2009 appropriations or existing budget authority;*

*(D) a description of any programmatic impacts within the Space Operations Mission Directorate that would result from reallocations of funds to meet the requirements of paragraph (1);*

*(E) a description of any additional authority needed to enable compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1); and*

*(F) a description of any potential disruption to the timely progress of development milestones in the preparation of infrastructure or work-force requirements for shuttle follow-on launch systems.*

Since October 15, 2008, when the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 was enacted, NASA has taken no actions that would preclude continued safe and effective flight of planned Space Shuttle missions if they could not be completed by the end of 2010. NASA maintained the option to extend Shuttle operations beyond the end of FY 2010 pending a decision by the incoming Administration as of the date of this report and this will be maintained through April 30, 2009. The President's FY 2010 budget request, released on February 26, 2009, includes funding to fly the Space Shuttle to complete the International Space Station and then retire the Shuttle in 2010. An additional flight may be conducted if it can safely and affordably be flown by the end of 2010. Activities to date in FY 2009 have been done within NASA's existing FY 2009 budget allocation for the Space Shuttle Program. No additional authority was required. There have been no impacts to the Constellation Program milestones in the preparation of infrastructure or work-force requirements as a result of activities to not preclude Shuttle extension through April 30, 2009.