National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20546-0001

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TO: Associate Administrator, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate
Director, Ames Research Center
Director, Glenn Research Center
Director, Langley Research Center

FROM: Assistant Inspector General for Auditing

SUBJECT: Review of NASA's Wind Tunnel User Fees (Assignment No. A-05-010)

The NASA Office of Inspector General is closing the subject assignment because significant changes in the management of NASA's wind tunnels have invalidated our initial work. We began the review in January 2005 to evaluate the methodology that NASA was using to compute wind tunnel user fees charged to non-NASA users. Specifically, we evaluated the following areas:

- Actions taken to meet the congressional mandate to restructure NASA wind tunnel user fees and to submit a plan for restructuring.

  NASA submitted that plan to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on March 11, 2005. According to that plan, the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) instituted a new "corporate management of facilities" approach (subsequently renamed the Aeronautics Test Program [ATP]), to be implemented immediately. Under that approach, ARMD established the Facilities Management Office (now the ATP Office) within ARMD to be responsible for the integrated, strategic management of all of NASA's major wind tunnels. In addition, in October 2005, NASA established the Shared Capability Asset Program (SCAP) to preserve the Agency's shared assets by requiring all Mission Directorates to share in the costs of maintaining those assets.

- The adequacy of actions taken to implement the recommendation made in our report, "Final Management Letter on Audit of Wind Tunnel Utilization" (IG-03-027, September 26, 2003).

  The report recommended that the Associate Administrator, Office of Aerospace Technology, should establish standards for recording, summarizing, and reporting wind tunnel utilization data. We determined that actions taken were responsive to the recommendation.

We appreciate the courtesies and cooperation provided to the staff during this review. If you have questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. Catherine M. Schneiter, Financial and Institutional Management Director, at 202-358-3789 (e-mail: catherine.schneiter@nasa.gov).

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cc:
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