National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of the Administrator  
Washington, DC 20546-0001

December 12, 2012

Vice Admiral Joseph W. Dyer, USN (Ret.)  
Chair  
Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Admiral Dyer:

NASA has decided not to implement the ASAP recommendations (2006-03-04, 2010-04-03, and 2011-01-01) pertaining to alcohol testing in cases of post Type A and Type B mishaps.

After a thorough review of the regulatory changes and resources required to implement this policy, NASA has decided to accept the risk in this area. As mitigation to the risk we are accepting, NASA has reviewed policies, tools, and programs available to supervisors across the Agency regarding alcohol consumption. These tools and programs assist supervisors to recognize the signs of impairment that may be caused by either drug or alcohol use.

The reviews of NASA's alcohol policies and practices have identified personnel practices already in place, numerous checklists for accident investigators trained in alcohol awareness as a contributing factor, and identification of testing contractors in Testing Designated Positions, when permitted by contract.

I look forward to receiving continued advice from the ASAP that results from your important fact-finding and quarterly meetings.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

cc:  
Associate Administrator/Mr. Lightfoot  
Office of Chief Health and Medical Officer/Dr. Williams  
Office of Chief Health and Medical Officer/Mr. Michaud