

**ABSTRACT**  
**For The Midyear Health Physics Society Meeting**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**January 1998**

Paper or poster presentation by:

J. Mark Phillips  
Launch Approval and Policy Planning  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Launch Approval Engineering for NASA's Cassini Mission to Saturn  
J. Mark Phillips and Reed E. Wilcox

Launch approval engineering activities for NASA's radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG) powered Cassini mission involved the efforts of over 200 people across a dozen federal, state and local agencies. These activities encompassed satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Presidential Directive/National Security Council Memorandum #25, and the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan. In addition, a multi-agency effort was coordinated to provide information about the mission's nuclear safety to the public, media, congress and other government officials, both in the United States and abroad. This paper overviews the scope of efforts including the management organization and processes employed to satisfy the Cassini mission's launch approval engineering requirements.

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