

CoPP April 2025 Meeting: Turning Points

- **Federal government.** CoPP will monitor developments with policy, priority-setting, and budgetary decisions.
- **NASA.** NASA missions with PP components are pivoting from implementation successes (e.g., CLPS and Europa Clipper) toward other missions (e.g., Artemis, Dragonfly, Mars Sample Return (MSR), and Rosalind Franklin) and strategic priorities, such as the Moon-to-Mars (M2M) architecture and Mars Exploration Program (MEP). CoPP will follow the progress of these missions and strategies in connection with PP.
- **NASA's Office of Planetary Protection (OPP).**
 - CoPP congratulates OPP for sustained progress in developing and disseminating PP policy and guidance, including the *NASA Planetary Protection Handbook*. CoPP will provide feedback on the *Handbook*.
 - NASA is turning to its next PP challenges, such as updating NPR 8715.24; advancing PP research and policy in the M2M architecture; contributing to the interagency decision-making process on MSR and back contamination; and working on enabling PP strategies that support lower-cost missions. Within its statement of task, CoPP will support NASA's work on those PP challenges.
- **CoPP.** The pace of efforts to identify and address scientific questions about Mars missions is accelerating, as seen in our discussions of MEP, MSR, and M2M and in other efforts to advance science strategies for Mars missions (e.g., NASEM report on a science strategy for human exploration of Mars; Mars surface science workshops). CoPP will monitor and, as appropriate, contribute to the effort to align science and PP in connection with the heightened activities concerning Mars missions.

CoPP April 2025 Meeting: Specific Topics for Further CoPP Consideration during 2025

- **NASA PP policy and guidance**

- Understanding how OPP integrates the Mars NID into the NPR and PP strategies and guidance.
- Learning what substantive feedback NASA OPP receives on the *Handbook*.

- **NASA missions and strategies**

- Learning how the Artemis program contributes to PP for human missions to Mars.
- Tracking development of the PP objectives in M2M (MD-10 (forward contamination) and MD-11 (backward contamination)), including, if available, the OPP white paper on M2M backward PP.
- Monitoring MSR's progress after integration of HygEA into the architecture, including validation of the HygEA and other issues (e.g., ConOps, percussive cleaning, and sealing the mechanism).
- Getting updates on the plans for the sample return facility and associated capabilities in connection with PP on back contamination.
- Understanding how leadership of the interagency process are becoming aware of the PP and other issues associated with bringing Mars samples to Earth.

- **PP science and research**

- Clarifying the specific PP applications of cutting-edge metagenomics.
- Monitoring the NASA Space Microbial Culture Collection's development (e.g., sustainability, milestones, timelines).