

### ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

#### What are we reporting to OMB and GAO?

The reasons for changes in cost and schedule were the subject of Congressional hearings last spring and among the questions NASA's new Administrator received at his confirmation hearing. Learn more about the questions OMB and Congress have about the cost and schedule performance of NASA's projects and contracts—and how NASA is working with projects to improve this reporting. This session focuses on reporting explanations for changes to project and schedule in two areas of reporting.

GAO: Per Congressional direction, the GAO is performing an audit of "Selected Large Scale Projects" within NASA, those with LCC over \$250M. Their methodology is to compare what NASA does to best industry and DoD practices, and to what we say we do in our policy documents. These audits will be on-going and include a "data collection instrument" as well as interviews with the project team. An annual report to Congress summarizes GAO's explanations for changes in project costs and schedule.

OMB and Congress: Both OMB and Congress on-going reporting of changes in contract value or in project cost and schedule from baseline, along with explanations for the reasons for these changes. If the size of these changes exceed set thresholds, more detailed information is required. In addition, the extent to which NASA may rebaseline projects for purposes of external reporting depends, in part, on the extent to which the changes are due to changes outside the Agency's control.

**Mary Beth Zimmerman**  
*Program Analyst*  
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Mary Beth Zimmerman is a program analyst in the Strategic Investments Division (SID) of NASA's Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation. Ms. Zimmerman is currently focused on analysis of Agency performance at the portfolio level and provides updated assessments of cross-cutting, non-technical issues which affect program and project performance. She developed the methodology used by the Agency to standardize its reporting of project cost and schedule performance and helped develop the criteria for on-going Agency assessments of program and project performance. Previously, Mary Beth served as the SID analyst for the Agency's science portfolio.

Prior to joining NASA in 2004, Ms. Zimmerman served as lead analyst for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office, at the US Department of Energy (DOE), where she provided analysis of the benefits of research and development investments in advanced technologies. While at DOE, Mary Beth provided analysis of climate change mitigation, strategies, including development of advanced technologies and energy systems. Her work on climate change policies at DOE followed on economic analyses undertaken at the Alliance to Save Energy, the

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National Governors' Association, and Resources for the Future. Ms. Zimmerman received her MA in Economics, with a specialization in Industrial Organization from the American University.

#### **Louis Barbier**

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Louis Barbier is an operations research analyst in the Strategic Investments Division (SID) of NASA's Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation. Mr. Barbier leads a team that carries out continuous performance assessments on SMD and Aeronautics programs and projects. Mr. Barbier focuses on individual programs' and projects' cost, schedule, and technical performance, programmatic impacts, and Directorate-level portfolio analysis.

Mr. Barbier has been at NASA for 22 years. Prior to joining SID, Louis was an astrophysics researcher, Principal Investigator, and technology manager within the Astrophysics division at the Goddard Space Flight Center. Additionally, he served as the Associate Chief Scientist for the NASA Engineering and Safety Center and the Deputy Project Scientist for the Suborbital Balloon Program. Louis received his PhD in Physics from Louisiana State University.