The Aqua satellite, launched on May 4, 2002, provides measurements spanning almost all areas of Earth science, from outgoing reflected solar and emitted longwave radiation, to trace gases (including water vapor, carbon dioxide, and methane) and aerosols in the atmosphere, to chlorophyll in the oceans, to fires on land, to the global ice cover, and to atmospheric and ocean temperatures and numerous other geophysical variables. Four of Aqua’s instruments – AIRS, AMSU, CERES, and MODIS – continue to collect data that are widely used both by the science community to address key NASA and Decadal Survey objectives and in practical applications ranging from improved weather forecasting to monitoring forest fires, crop yields, volcanic ash plumes, and ice-infested waters.

**Aqua Timeline if Maximally Extended**

**Phase E**

- **January 2022**, Aqua begins its drag-down, free-drift orbit, slowly lowering its altitude and allowing the MLT to drift.
- **June-July 2024**, Aqua executes orbit (perigee) lowering maneuvers.
- **August 2026**, Aqua Instrument Shutdown & Spacecraft Passivation (power generation is now the anticipated life-limiting factor for the Aqua Mission).

**Phase F (2+ years)**

- **MO: GSFC ESMO close-out activities**
- **Aqua satellite and instrument decommissioning activities**
- **DA: Project Management and AIRS, MODIS, and CERES science team activities to produce final science-quality datasets and documentation**
- **Reprocessing of final Aqua datasets**
- **First quarter 2029**, final delivery of Aqua science-quality datasets to data archive.
- **September 2028**, end of Aqua funding.

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**AIRS = Atmospheric Infrared Sounder**

**AMSU = Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit**

**CERES = Clouds and the Earth’s Radiant Energy System**

**MODIS = Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer**