



To Whom It May Concern:

In December 2019, Camden County notified the FAA that it intended to submit an amended application for a Launch Site Operator License that would limit proposed launch operations to small-lift launch vehicles, without booster flyback, and asked that the FAA toll the 180-day license determination period established by 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 413.15(a). The FAA agreed to toll the determination period as of December 14, 2019, the 178th day. The County submitted its amended application on January 15, 2020. The amended application included data and analyses specific to the small-lift launch vehicle. The determination period continues to be tolled while the FAA considers the amended application. The FAA has updated the EIS analysis to focus on small-lift launch capability and has removed the medium-large lift vehicle from the EIS.

The FAA intended to release a Revised Draft EIS for a 45-day public review and comment period in or around January 2021. However, the revised analyses have confirmed that all potential environmental impacts of the small-lift launch vehicles are subsumed within the potential impacts of the medium-large lift class vehicle as described in Draft EIS, issued in March 2018.

In addition, Executive Order 13927, EO on Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities, issued on June 4, 2020, requires the FAA and other executive branch agencies to "take all appropriate steps to use their lawful emergency authorities and other authorities to respond to the national emergency and to facilitate the Nation's economic recovery..." and to "take all reasonable measures to speed infrastructure investments and to speed other actions in addition to such investments that will strengthen the economy and return Americans to work, while providing appropriate protection for public health and safety, natural resources, and the environment, as required by law." The Executive Order specifically directs all Federal agencies "to use, to the fullest extent possible and consistent with applicable law, emergency procedures, statutory exemptions, categorical exclusions, analyses that have already been completed, and concise and focused analyses, consistent with NEPA, CEQ's NEPA regulations, and agencies' NEPA procedures." The FAA believes that expediting the environmental review process for Spaceport Camden furthers the interests of Executive Order 13927.

The FAA has therefore revised its approach and will issue a Final EIS without an additional public comment period. The FAA also intends to use the combined EIS/Record of Decision (ROD) process required by 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 304a(b) and 23 U.S.C. § 139(n)(2), Accelerated Decision-making in Environmental Reviews, and as described in Guidance on the Use of Combined Final Environmental Impact Statements/Records of Decision and Errata Sheets in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews, issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation in April 2019.

The Final EIS will address updates to the Proposed Action since the release of the 2018 Draft EIS and will consider the updates across all resource areas. The Final EIS will incorporate responses to all comments received on the 2018 draft EIS.

The FAA is actively developing the Final EIS which is expected to be released in March 2021. The Final EIS addresses Camden's proposed launch site operations. The FAA will perform additional NEPA analyses for any future launch vehicle operators seeking to operate from Spaceport Camden. This additional analysis would address the potential impacts of the launch of their specific vehicle.

When the Final EIS/ROD is available, a notice will be sent to individuals and organizations on the project distribution list. We will also provide updates on the Final EIS process on the project website: https://www.faa.gov/space/environmental/nepa_docs/#SCEIS.

For media inquiries, please contact Eva Ngai at 202-267-8001.

Wayne Monteith
Associate Administrator
Office of Commercial Space Transportation