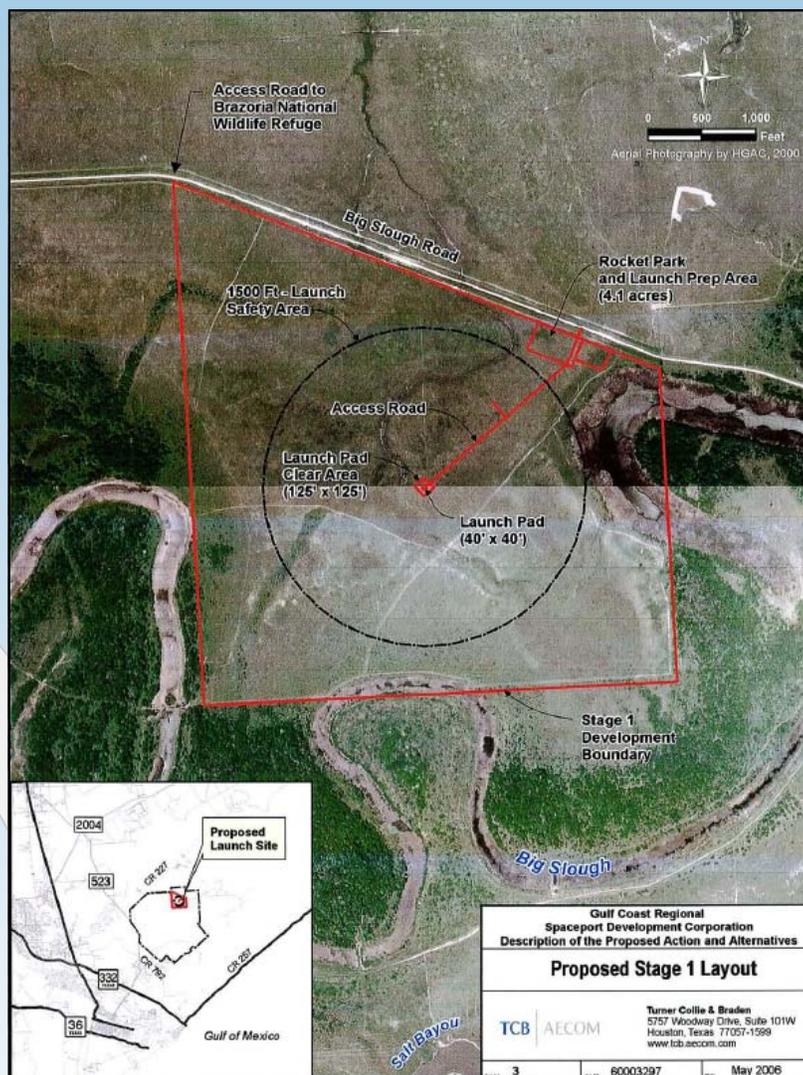


Proposed Gulf Coast Regional Spaceport Fact Sheet

The proposed action, as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) currently understands it, is for the FAA to issue a launch site operator license to the Gulf Coast Regional Spaceport Development Corporation (GCRSDC) to support the launch of suborbital rockets. The GCRSDC has indicated that its preferred location for the commercial launch site would be in Brazoria County, Texas, south of Big Slough Road. As part of the proposed action, the GCRSDC proposes to construct a 0.5-mile access road and a 40 foot by 40 foot launch pad (*see map right*).

Preferred Location of the Proposed Gulf Coast Regional Spaceport



The GCRSDC proposes that the launch site would support up to eight launches per year of suborbital rockets. The duration of the proposed launches would be 15 minutes or less. The proposed site could also be used to conduct amateur launches from the designated 'Rocket Park' area shown above. Amateur launches would not be licensed or permitted by the FAA. A launch site operator license would be valid for five years from the date of issuance unless surrendered, suspended, or revoked before the expiration of the term and is renewable upon application by the licensee. Issuing a license is considered a major Federal action and is subject to environmental review as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Additional Information & How to Submit Comments



Source: www.wff.nasa.gov

If the FAA issues a launch site operator license, any major changes in operations or infrastructure would require a license modification, which would be subject to the FAA's licensing process, and therefore subject to an environmental determination.

A launch site operator license does not authorize launches of specific rockets, but allows the licensee to offer a site from which launches could occur. Private non-amateur launch operators would be required to obtain a launch license before launching their rocket from a licensed site.

The issuance of a launch license is considered a major Federal action, and therefore, would be subject to the NEPA process. An example of a launch of a representative rocket being considered under the proposed action is shown left.

To Submit Comments

Oral and written comments can be submitted at the meeting tonight

Written comments can be mailed to:

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Gulf Coast Regional Spaceport EA
c/o ICF International
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

Fax to (703) 934-3951

E-mail to GCRSpaceportEA@icfi.com

For More Information

- Visit the FAA-AST website at <http://ast.faa.gov>
- Request that the FAA provide you with a copy of the Executive Summary or Draft EA, when available, at the registration table tonight or by one of the methods described to the left
- Obtain a copy of the Draft EA, once published, on the FAA's website or at local libraries