Potential Biological Resources Impacts from the Proposed Action

**Biological Resources**

Biological resources comprise the plant and animal species, habitats, and ecological relationships of the land, water, and Atlantic coastal areas within the construction and operational areas.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis considers direct and indirect impacts of construction and operations to animals and plants/vegetation.

Mitigations that would minimize the potential for direct and indirect impacts from construction and operation activities are identified in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to fulfill requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The final results of the consultation will be included in the Final EIS.

The FAA has determined that the Proposed Action and alternatives would either have “no effect” or “may affect but is not likely to adversely affect” sensitive species depending on the particular species and scope of associated activity; the FAA is seeking concurrence on these determinations with the USFWS and NMFS.

**Construction**

- There would be approximately 122 acres of ground disturbance associated with construction which could increase the potential for erosion/sedimentation and invasive nonnative species; however, this would not be expected to result in significant impacts.
- Wildlife species could be affected due to habitat alteration and loss, disturbance or displacement resulting from human activities and noise, and direct physical impacts.

**Operation**

The potential impacts from operational activities include increased vehicular traffic, increased human presence, increased impervious surface, use of the dock during operations, and associated noise, lights, chemical materials, and debris from launch/landing activities. These activities may result in injury, mortality, alterations to reproductive success, startle responses, and water quality alterations.

Proposed operational activities would not result in significant impacts to critical habitat, special status terrestrial plants and animals, or marine/estuarine animal species.

Please refer to the Draft EIS for the full review of potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action.