



Public Meeting Fact Sheet

Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Front Range Airport Launch Site Operator License

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Adams County Board of County Commissioner's (BOCC) proposal to operate a commercial space launch site at the Front Range Airport (FTG) in Watkins, Colorado. Information on the proposed project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and the Draft PEA is available on the following website: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/environmental/nepa_docs/review/documents_progress/front_range/.

Tonight's public meeting is being held to provide information about the project and the FAA environmental review process, and to solicit input from the public on the Draft PEA. The meeting includes an open-house workshop from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The FAA will provide an overview of the environmental process from 6:00 pm to 6:15 pm, followed by a public comment period from 6:15 pm to 8:00 pm. To ensure consideration of your comments in the development of the Final PEA, comments must be received by May 25, 2018.

During the comment period, you can provide comments in four ways:

1. Provide written comments at tonight's public meeting
2. Provide oral comments at tonight's public meeting
3. Submit comments electronically to: Spaceport_Colorado_PEA@icf.com
4. Mail your comment form to: *Stacey Zee, Federal Aviation Administration, c/o ICF, 9300 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22031*

Who is here?

Lead Federal Agency



The FAA is the lead federal agency. The FAA licenses and regulates U.S. commercial space launch and reentry activities, as well as the operation of non-federal launch and reentry sites, as authorized by the Commercial Space Launch Act of 2011.

Applicant



The Adams County BOCC is the applicant. FTG is owned by Adams County. The BOCC is statutorily obligated to manage the operational and financial affairs of the County. The BOCC are constitutional officers who act collectively as the governing board.

Proposed Action

The Adams County BOCC proposes to operate a commercial space launch site (called "Spaceport Colorado") at FTG, in Watkins, Colorado. The Adams County BOCC would offer the site to one or more commercial launch operators for the operation of horizontal take-off and landing reusable launch vehicles (RLVs). To operate a commercial space launch site, the Adams County BOCC must obtain a Launch Site Operator License from the FAA. Under the Proposed Action addressed in this PEA, the FAA would:

- Issue a Launch Site Operator License to the Adams County BOCC for the operation of a commercial space launch site at FTG, and
- Conditionally approve FTG's modified Airport Layout Plan (ALP) showing the launch site boundary.

The Proposed Action does not include the approval of any launches. Any future application for a launch license would be subject to a separate environmental review, as explained in the Programmatic EA section of this fact sheet.

What is the Purpose of this Public Meeting?

The purpose of this public meeting is to inform you about the proposed project, provide information about the environmental review process, and solicit your comments on the environmental analysis in the Draft PEA.

Why did the FAA Prepare a Draft PEA?

NEPA requires all federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of any proposed major federal action and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process. For this project, the FAA has prepared a Draft PEA, which describes:

- Why the action is being proposed (Purpose and Need)
- What is the action (Proposed Action)
- Other alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study
- A description of the existing conditions at the proposed site
- An evaluation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative

The successful completion of the environmental review process does not guarantee that the FAA will issue a Launch Site Operator License to the Adams County BOCC. No decision can be made or license issued until the application review process is complete, which includes a requirement to complete the environmental review process and meet the FAA's safety requirements. Informed decisions are based on a candid and factual presentation of environmental impacts. These facts come from collecting information on the areas and resources affected by the proposal, and then identifying the type and extent of potential impacts resulting from the proposal.

For this project, the FAA has considered the following resource areas:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (including Fish, Wildlife, and Plants)
- Climate
- Coastal Resources
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
- Farmlands
- Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention
- Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Natural Resources and Energy Supply
- Noise and Compatible Land Use
- Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Children's Environmental Health and Safety Risks
- Visual Effects (including Light Emissions)
- Water Resources (including Wetlands, Floodplains, Surface Waters, Groundwater, and Wild and Scenic Rivers)



PEA=Programmatic Environmental Assessment, FONSI=Finding of No Significant Impact, FONSI/ROD= Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision, EIS=Environmental Impact Statement, NOI=Notice of Intent

Programmatic EA

The Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA allow for federal agencies to prepare "programmatic" NEPA documents for broad federal actions. A programmatic document is a type of general, broad NEPA review from which subsequent NEPA documents can be tiered, focusing on the issues specific to the subsequent action. Given that FTG does not have a commitment from a launch operator at this time, the analysis in this Draft PEA uses a conceptual RLV and is based on broad assumptions regarding the location of related facilities and the surface movement of RLVs associated with operation of a horizontal RLV at FTG. The purpose of including these assumptions is to conservatively assess the potential environmental impacts of launch vehicle operations at FTG. This information does not necessarily reflect the exact launch vehicle(s) that would operate at FTG. Instead, it defines the scope (or bounds) of the analysis. If a prospective launch operator applies for a license to operate a launch vehicle at FTG, a separate environmental document, tiering off of this PEA, as well as an additional vehicle license application, would be required to support the issuance of a launch operator license.

