



PUBLIC SCOPING FACT SHEET

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE FRONT RANGE AIRPORT LAUNCH SITE OPERATOR LICENSE

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Adams County Board of County Commissioner’s proposal to operate a commercial space launch site at the Front Range Airport (FTG) in Watkins, Colorado. Information on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and the 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 scoping meeting is being held to provide more information about the project, the FAA environmental review process, and to solicit input from the public on what should be analyzed and studied in the 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 Draft PEA, comments must be received by **July 13, 2017**.

During the scoping period, the public can provide comments in 3 ways:

1. Provide written comments at tonight’s scoping meeting
2. Submit comments electronically to: **Spaceport_Colorado_PEA@icf.com**
3. 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 activity, as well as the operation of non-Federal launch and reentry sites, as authorized by Executive Order 12465, Commercial Expendable Launch Vehicle Activities, and the Commercial Space Launch Act of 2011.

Applicant



The Adams County Board of County Commissioners (the BOCC) is the applicant. Front Range Airport (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 Board of County Commissioners (the BOCC) of Adams County, Colorado proposes to operate a commercial space launch site (“Spaceport Colorado”) at the 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 horizontal 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;
- Consider approval of the modified Airport Layout Plan (ALP) that shows the launch site boundary.

What is the Purpose of this Public Scoping Meeting?

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the PEA and identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to inform you about the proposed project, explain the environmental review process, and solicit your comments and concerns related to the proposed action and alternatives and the scope of the environmental analysis.

What is Scoping?

Scoping is an early and open process where the public is invited to help identify issues to be studied in the PEA.

Why is FAA Preparing a 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 FTG, the FAA will prepare a PEA, which will describe:

- Why the action is being proposed (Purpose and Need)
- What is the action (Proposed Action)
- Reasonable alternatives to the action
- A description of the existing conditions at the proposed site
- An evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action and the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, and any necessary mitigation measures

The successful completion of the environmental review process does not guarantee that the FAA would 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 will consider 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)



Source: USFWS



Source: USGS



Source: City of Denver



Programmatic EA

The analysis in this PEA uses a conceptual RLV and is based on broad assumptions regarding the location of propellant storage, mission preparation activities and related facilities, and the surface movement of RLVs associated with operation of a horizontal RLV at FTG. The purpose of describing these parameters 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. When a prospective launch operator applies for a license to operate a launch vehicle at FTG, a separate environmental document, tiering off of this PEA, would be required to support the issuance of that launch operator license.

