EIS for Spaceport Camden

Camden County, Georgia

Public Scoping Meeting

By: **Pam Underwood and Stacey Zee**, FAA,
Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Date: **December 7, 2015**

Federal Aviation Administration

Why Are We Here?

- Camden County Board of Commissioners (the County) proposes to establish a non-Federal launch site that is County-controlled and managed

- The County proposes to construct and operate a commercial space launch site, called “Spaceport Camden” in Camden County, Georgia

- The County’s goal is to provide a launch site option other than Federal installations/ranges

- The County must apply for a Launch Site Operator License from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation

- The FAA licenses and regulates U.S. commercial space launch and reentry activity, as well as the operation of commercial launch and reentry sites

Who is Involved?

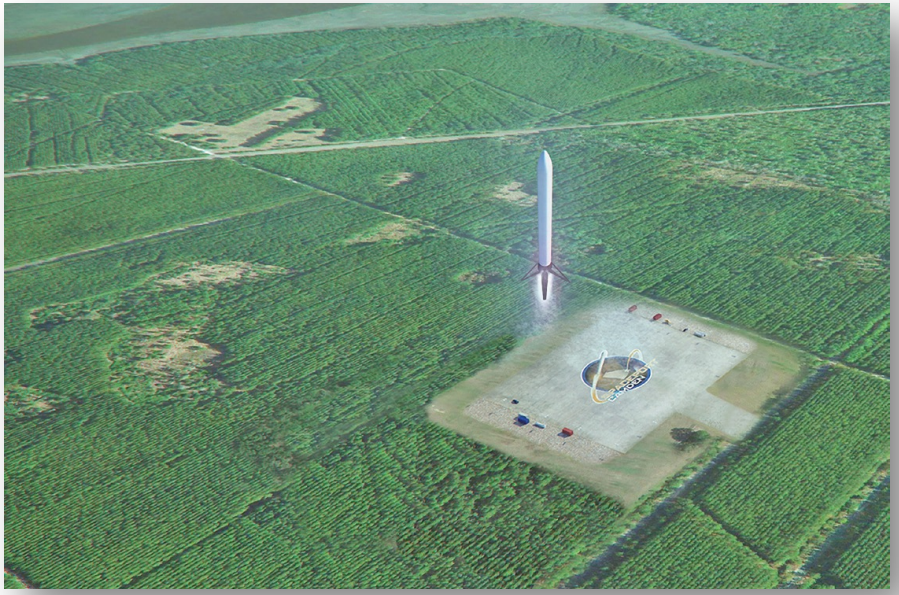
The FAA is the lead Federal agency

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is a cooperating agency because of their special expertise in the area of rocket launches

The National Park Service (NPS) is a cooperating agency because of the proximity of the project area to the Cumberland Island National Seashore and other historic properties

FAA Licensing Authority

- The FAA issues licenses for
  - Launch (orbital and suborbital)
  - Reentry (purposeful)
  - Operation of a launch site
  - Operation of a reentry site



- The FAA issues experimental permits for developmental reusable suborbital rockets

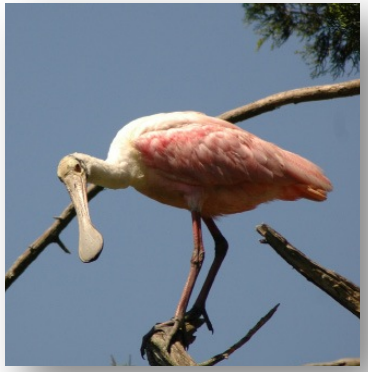
The FAA only licenses commercial launch activities

How Does the Licensing Process Work?

Why is an Environmental Review Necessary?

- Issuing Launch Site Operator Licenses must be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- NEPA requires the FAA to identify and analyze environmental impacts of issuing a Launch Site Operator License



What is the Proposed Action?

- The FAA would issue a Launch Site Operator License to the County to offer Spaceport Camden to commercial launch operators

- Spaceport Camden, which would be located in an unincorporated area of Woodbine, would accommodate
  - launches of liquid-fueled, medium-lift-class, orbital and suborbital vertical launch vehicles
  - up to 12 vertical launches and associated first-stage landings per year
  - up to 12 static fire engine tests and up to 12 wet dress rehearsals per year

What Facilities are Proposed?

Vertical Launch Facility

- Launch pad with deluge system and water capture tank
- Propellant tank farm
- Transporter/rocket erector track
- Shops, office, and integration facility
- Vehicle integration building
- Water tower
- Lightning towers

Landing Zone

- concrete landing pad
- Fuel and oxidizer off-load tanks

Operations Support Facilities

- Launch control center and payload processing facility
- Alternate launch control center with visitor center
- Main gate
- Security fencing around entire facility

What are the Alternatives?

- **Proposed Action** – The FAA would issue a Launch Site Operator License to the County
- **No Action Alternative** – The FAA would not issue a Launch Site Operator License to the County
- **Other Alternatives** – The FAA will consider alternatives suggested during the scoping process for inclusion in the EIS
- **FAA Preferred Alternative** – The FAA will identify the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS

What will be Analyzed in the EIS?

- 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, archeological, 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)

Agency Coordination

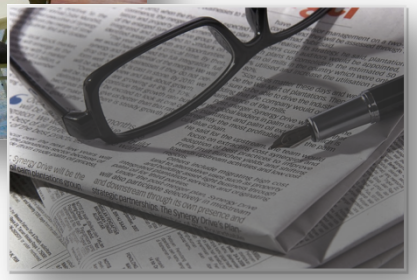
- Endangered Species Act, Section 7
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
- Clean Water Act, Section 404, Wetlands Delineation
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106

What is the Scoping Schedule?

- November 6, 2015 – Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*
- December 7, 2015 – Public scoping meeting to provide information and receive comments
- January 4, 2016 – FAA requests scoping comments be submitted to be considered in the Draft EIS

What are the FAA's Next Steps?

- Coordinate and consult with agencies
- Develop and release Draft EIS
  - 45-day public comment period
  - Hold public hearings on Draft EIS during public comment period
- Address comments on the Draft EIS
- Develop and release Final EIS
- 30-day waiting period
- Issue Record of Decision



Where Can I Get More Information?

- **Registration table**
  - Handouts and comment forms
  - Request to be added to the project mailing list
- **Website** http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/environmental/nepa_docs/review/documents_progress/camden_spaceport/

Administrative Points

- Sign up at the registration table to
  - present oral comments/statements
  - request notification when the Draft EIS is released
- Provide written comments by
  - Submitting tonight at the comment table
  - Mailing comments to:
    Ms. Stacey M. Zee, FAA Environmental Specialist
    Spaceport Camden County EIS
    c/o Leidos
    20201 Century Boulevard, Suite 105
    Germantown, MD 20874
  - Emailing comments to FAACamdenSpaceportEIS@Leidos.com

All comments must be received by January 4, 2016

Thank You for Your Participation

Scoping is your opportunity to provide comments to help the FAA improve the EIS analysis