

Appendix C. Cultural Resources Documentation



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Commercial Space Transportation

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

September 22, 2023

Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, SpaceX Starship Super Heavy Launch Operations, Area of Potential Effects Definition (THC Tracking No. 202106078)

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposes to expand the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archaeological resources defined in the FAA's May 19, 2021 letter to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to include an additional area to account for potential effects associated with an anomaly (see Figure 1). This expanded area was developed based on SpaceX's last launch anomaly at the launch site on April 20, 2023, which had the largest debris field of all launch anomalies to-date. Although SpaceX has had launch anomalies at the Boca Chica Launch Site, launch anomalies are typically rare, unplanned events.

In this newly expanded portion of the APE for archaeological resources, SpaceX's contractor will perform a systematic archaeological survey, designed in coordination with THC, to identify and evaluate as-yet undocumented archaeological resources and evaluate previously documented but unevaluated archaeological resources.

The FAA looks forward to working with THC and the other consulting parties to assess the potential effects of the undertaking. We request your concurrence on the expanded APE for archaeological resources, shown in Figure 1, by October 6, 2023. Thank you for your participation in this review process. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Amy Hanson at 847-243-7609 or via email at Amy.Hanson@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

STACEY
MOLINICH ZEE

Digitally signed by
STACEY MOLINICH ZEE
Date: 2023.09.22
13:20:45 -04'00'

Stacey M. Zee
Manager, Operations Support Branch



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 Previously Surveyed APE

 Expanded APE

C-003



October 10, 2023

Amy Hanson
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Re: Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas, Phase I Survey of Starship Super Heavy Launch Operations and Revised Anomaly Impact Area, Cameron County, Texas (THC Tracking Nos. 202400583; 202400566; permit application and scope of work)

Dear Ms. Hanson:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The THC concurs with the proposed expanded Area of Potential Effects for Direct Effects (APE DE). We have some concerns regarding the shoreline directly adjacent. First, there is a documented shipwreck (41CF125) in this area that is a State Antiquities Landmark and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Second, this portion of the shoreline has not been previously surveyed for archeological deposits. We appreciate the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ensuring there will be no repeat of the launchpad failure during the inaugural launch of the Starship vehicle on April 20th, 2023. We also understand the FAA does not anticipate vehicular debris from future launches. Because of these assurances, the THC concurs with the proposed expanded APE DE as defined by the FAA.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers: emily.dylla@thc.texas.gov and amy.borgens@thc.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



For Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

MW | ed

Copied:	Stacey Zee	FAA
	Kelsey Condell	SpaceX
	Alma Waters Santos	SpaceX
	Reagan Faught	TPWD
	David Kroskie	TPWD

From: [Hanson, Amy \(FAA\)](#)
To: [Kelsey Condell](#); [Katy Groom](#); [Matthew Thompson](#)
Cc: [Extranet Contact - Stacey.Zee](#); [Leske, Andrew H \(FAA\)](#); [Sherman, Steven](#); [Zaccagnino, Jimmy](#); [Cantin, Jacob \(FAA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Expanded Area of Potential Effects from April 2023 Anomaly
Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023 10:43:49 AM
Importance: High

Katy/Kelsey/Matt,

Wanted to make sure you saw this signoff from the THC on the Phase I Report for the APE.

Thank you.

Amy

From: noreply@thc.state.tx.us <noreply@thc.state.tx.us>
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 7:57 AM
To: julisa.melendez@searchinc.com; reviews@thc.state.tx.us; Hanson, Amy (FAA) <Amy.Hanson@faa.gov>; Alma.Santos@spacex.com; george_macdonnell@fws.gov; david.kroskie@tpwd.texas.gov
Subject: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Expanded Area of Potential Effects from April 2023 Anomaly



Re: Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and/or the Antiquities Code of Texas

THC Tracking #202401527

Date: 10/26/2023

Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Expanded Area of Potential Effects from April 2023 Anomaly (Permit 31042)

Boca Chica Blvd

Brownsville, TX

Description: The project consists of a Phase I cultural resources investigation of an Expanded APE on behalf of SpaceX. The fieldwork aimed to assess impacts from an April 2023 launch anomaly.

Dear Julisa Melendez:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Justin Kockritz, Emily Dylla and Sheena Cox, has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

Above-Ground Resources

- No adverse effects on historic properties.
- THC/SHPO concurs with information provided.

Archeology Comments

- No historic properties affected. However, if cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.
- THC/SHPO concurs with information provided.
- This draft report is acceptable. To facilitate review and make project information and final reports available through the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, we appreciate submission of tagged pdf copies of the final report including one restricted version with all site location information (if applicable), and one public version with all site location information redacted; an online abstract form submitted via the abstract tab on eTRAC; and survey area shapefiles submitted via the shapefile tab on eTRAC. For questions on how to submit these please visit our video training series at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLONbbv2pt4cog5t6mCqZVaFAx3d0MkgQC>
Please note that these steps are required for projects conducted under a Texas Antiquities Permit.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If the project changes, or if new historic properties are found, please contact the review staff. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers: justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov, emily.dylla@thc.texas.gov, sheena.cox@thc.texas.gov.

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit <http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>.

Sincerely,



for Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Please do not respond to this email.

cc:

amy.hanson@faa.gov, Alma.Santos@spacex.com, george_macdonnell@fws.gov, david.kroskie@tpwd.texas.gov