

April 16, 2025

# Commercial Space Transportation

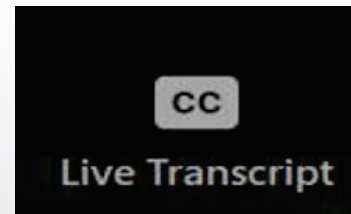
Public Meeting for the Environmental Assessment for the SpaceX Falcon 9 Operations at  
Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Closed Captioning

- Closed Captioning
  - To turn on closed captions, click on the “CC/Live Transcript” icon on the bottom of your screen
  - Choose the “enable” option



# Meeting Agenda

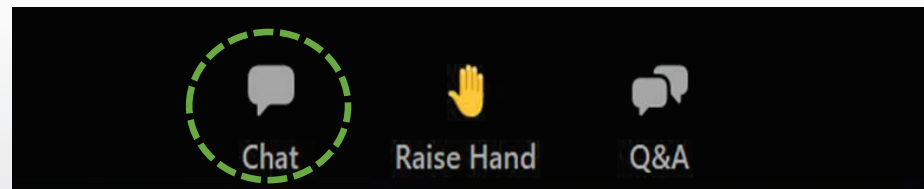
- Logistics
- Introductions
- Presentation
- Break
- Verbal Comments
  - Attendees will be given the opportunity to provide public comments recorded by a court reporter

*Please note: This meeting is being recorded*



# Zoom Platform

- If you need help with the Zoom platform:
  - Use the chat feature at the bottom of the screen to message meeting host
- To call-in to the meeting:
- Phone number: 1-888-788-0099
  - Meeting ID: 853 9161 5696
  - Password: 743444



- All participants are on mute and video feeds are restricted



# Eva Long

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Operations Support Branch (ASA-140)  
Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)  
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

# Jacob Cantin

Aerospace Engineer  
Enterprise Operations Branch (ASA-110)  
Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)  
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)



# Media Contact

- For any media inquiries, please contact:
  - FAA Press Office
    - [Pressoffice@faa.gov](mailto:Pressoffice@faa.gov)



# How to Submit Comments

- Provide a verbal comment at tonight's meeting
- Submit electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Search for Docket No. FAA-2025-0114Click on the "Comment" button, enter your information and comment, then click "Submit Comment"
- Mail to:  
Ms. Eva Long, FAA Environmental Specialist, c/o ICF  
1902 Reston Metro Plaza  
Reston, VA 20190

**The comment period closes on April 24, 2025**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



# FAA Presentation





# Why Are We Here?

- The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to increase the annual number of launches (cadence) of the Falcon 9 launch vehicle and to construct and operate a landing zone (LZ) at Space Launch Complex-40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.
  - Increased launch cadence from 50, as previously analyzed, to 120 per year
  - Landing up to 34 Falcon 9 stage one boosters at the SLC-40 LZ per year
- The increased Falcon 9 launch cadence and addition of Falcon 9 first-stage booster landings at SLC-40 requires a new or modified license from the FAA.
- Constructing and operating the new LZ at SLC-40 would require a real property agreement between SpaceX and the Department of the Air Force (DAF).
- The FAA is analyzing the potential environmental impacts in a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA).



# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- NEPA is a procedural statute that requires Federal agencies to consider the potential environmental impacts of proposed actions subject to Federal control or responsibility before a decision is made.
- The FAA considers the issuance of a new or modified license for commercial space operations and the closure of airspace major Federal actions subject to NEPA.
- Before making a license decision, the FAA must consider:
  - A range of reasonable alternatives
  - Potential environmental or health consequences
  - Tribal, government agency, and public input

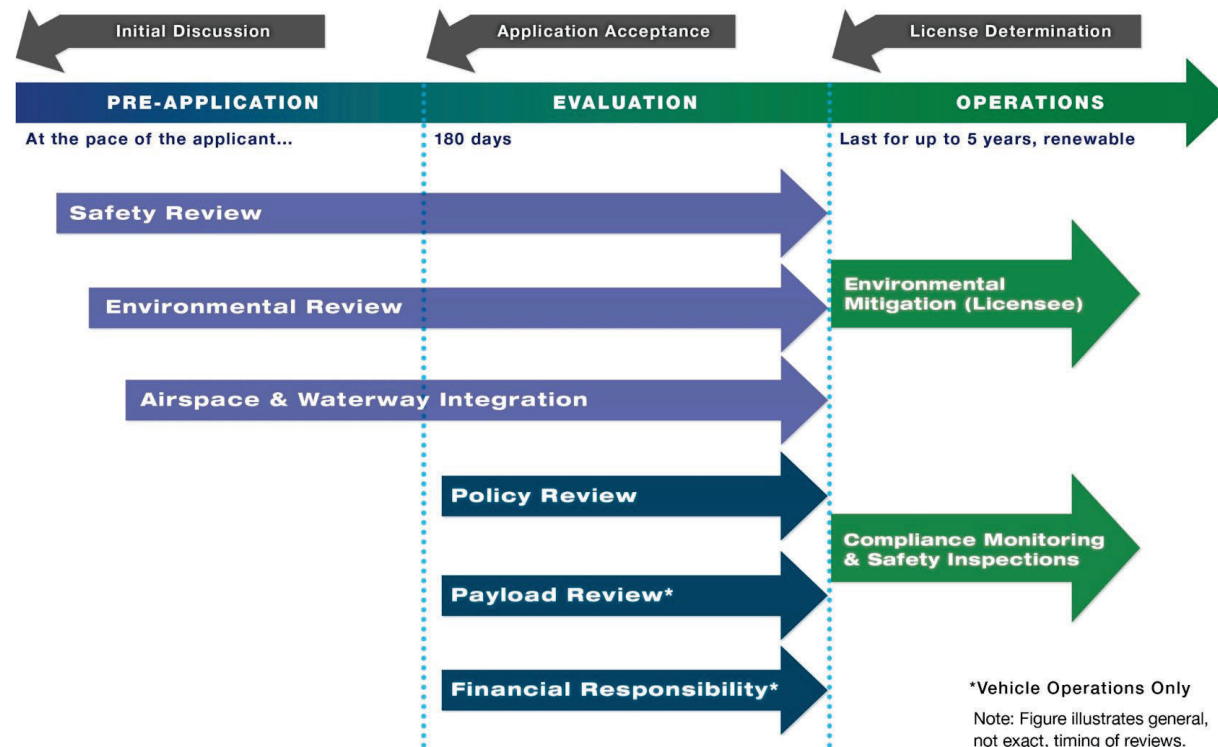


# Project History

- The FAA previously evaluated Falcon 9 launch and landing operations at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in a 2020 Environmental Assessment. The 2020 Environmental Assessment considered up to 50 launches annually from SLC-40 and up to 54 booster landings annually at LZ-1 or LZ-2.
- SpaceX requested modifications to its license to conduct additional launches in Calendar Years 2023 and 2024. The FAA conducted a written re-evaluation each time prior to modifying the license.
- In 2024, The Department of the Air Force implemented a policy that requires commercial launch service providers to conduct landing operations at their launch site and determined SpaceX's existing real property license at LZ-1 and LZ-2 would not be renewed, necessitating construction of a new landing zone to continue terrestrial landings for launches from SLC-40.



## FAA LICENSING PROCESS

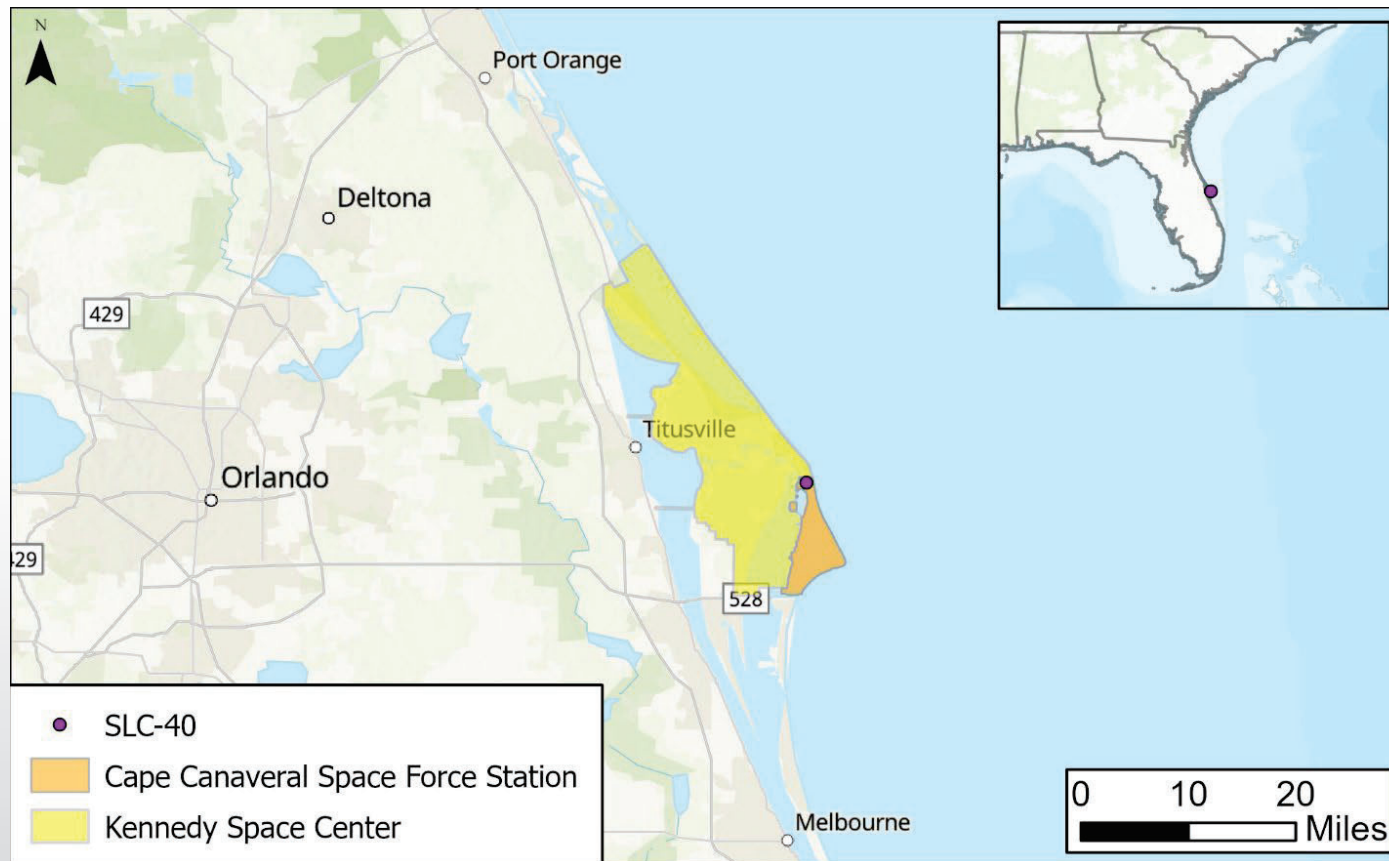


\*The Environmental Review process is in reference to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.



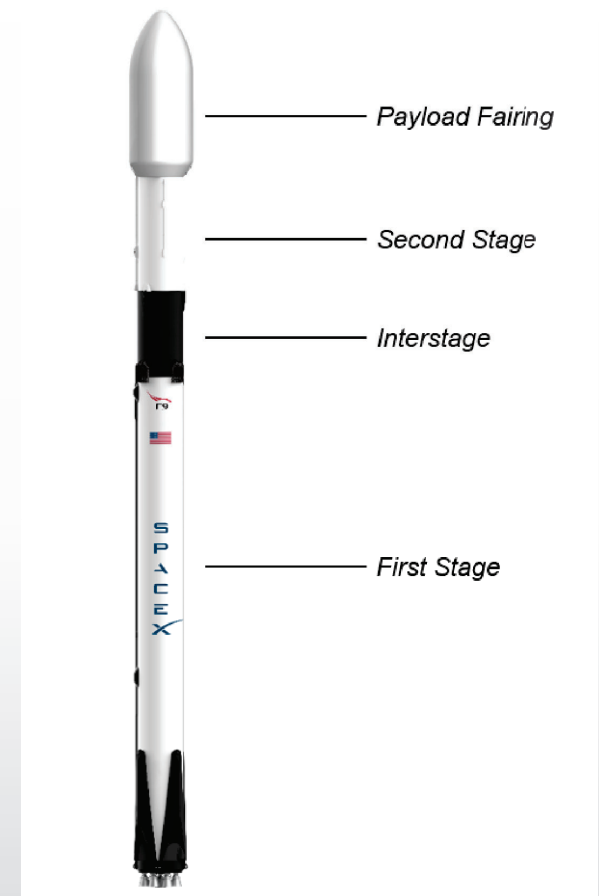
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# Project Location and Site Overview

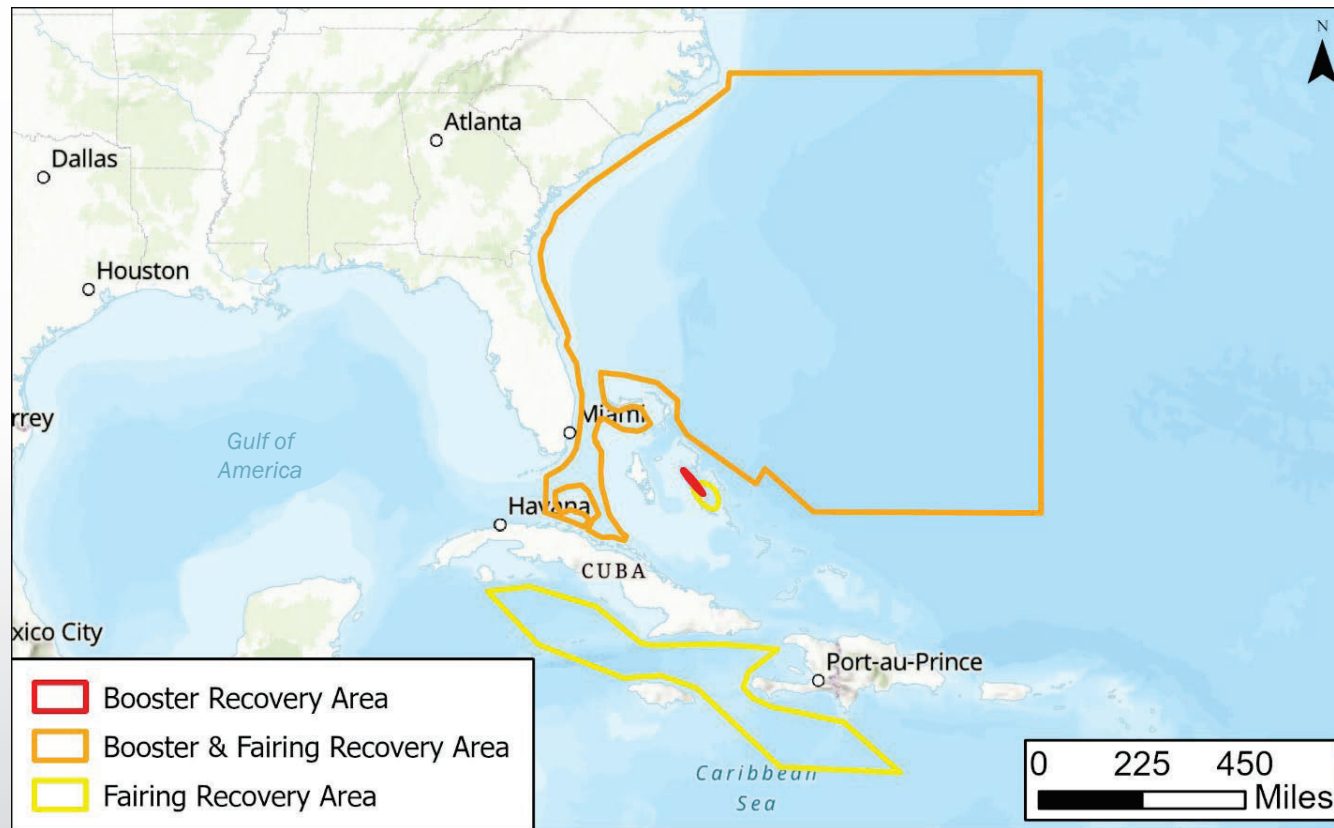


# Falcon 9 Launch Vehicle

- Falcon 9 is equipped with 9 Merlin engines, powered by liquid oxygen and rocket propellant-1.
- First stage booster lands at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station or downrange in the ocean on a dronship (barge).
  - Some missions may require expending the first stage booster in the Atlantic Ocean
- Fairings are recovered from the ocean and reused.
- No changes proposed to existing launch vehicle.



# Downrange Recovery Area



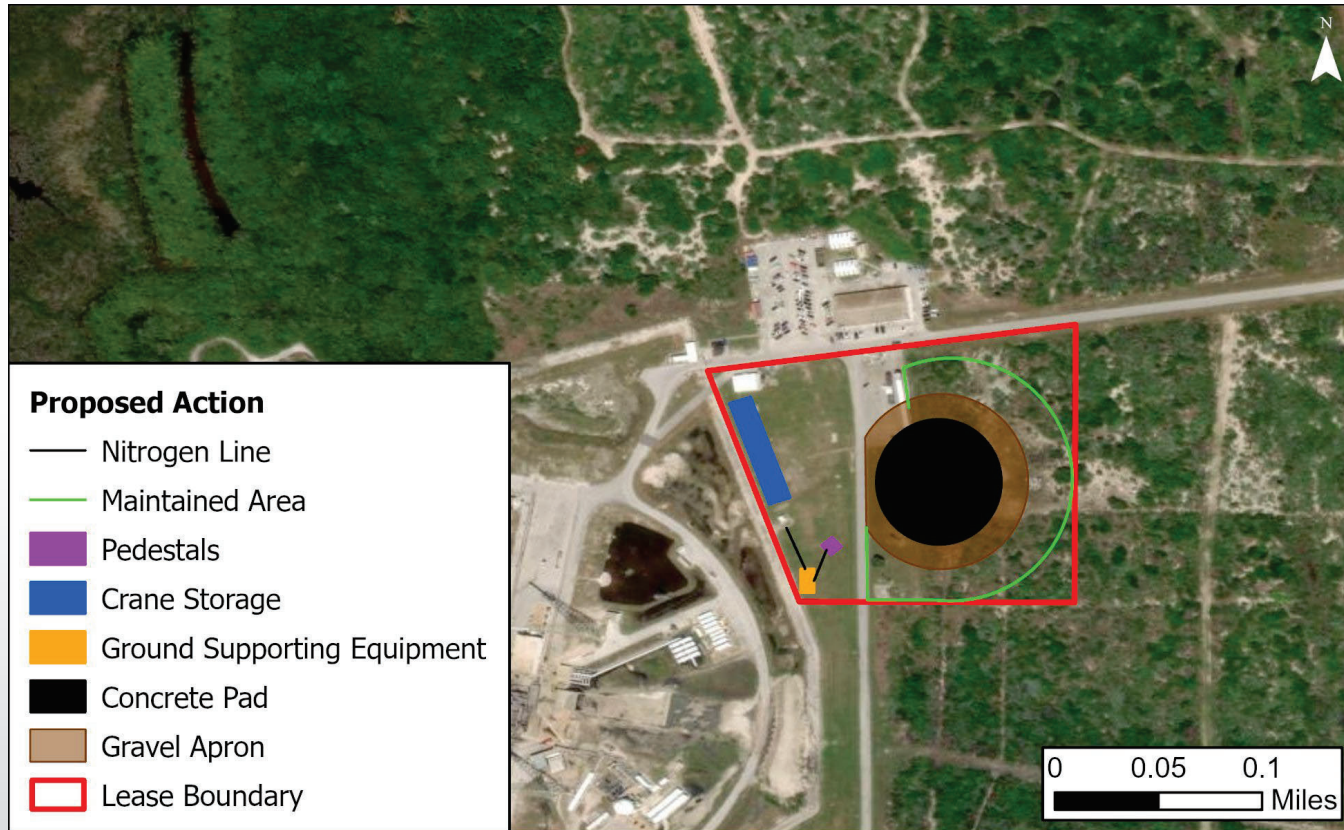
# Proposed Operations

Activity	Annual Frequency
Static Fire Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to 40 times annually (7 seconds per test)</li></ul>
Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to 120 times annually</li></ul>
Landing at SLC-40 LZ Landing downrange (on a drone ship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to 34 times annually</li><li>Up to 120 times annually</li></ul>





# Proposed Landing Zone



# Lead and Cooperating Agencies

- **Lead Federal Agency: FAA**
- **Cooperating Agencies:**
  - Due to jurisdictions
    - The Department of the Air Force
    - United States Coast Guard
  - Due to special expertise
    - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- The Department of the Air Force's draft decision document for execution of real property agreement posted for public review.
  - Link available at:  
[https://www.faa.gov/space/stakeholder\\_engagement/SpaceX\\_Falcon\\_SLC\\_40\\_EA](https://www.faa.gov/space/stakeholder_engagement/SpaceX_Falcon_SLC_40_EA)



# Impact Categories Analyzed in Detail

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (including marine and terrestrial species and habitats)
- Climate
- Coastal Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use
- Socioeconomics
- Water Resources



# Impact Categories Incorporated by Reference from the 2020 EA

- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f) Resources
- Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention
  - Hazardous materials and solid wastes would be handled in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
  - Handling and disposal of hazardous materials and solid wastes will be conducted in accordance with CCSFS established plans and procedures.
- Natural Resources and Energy Supply
  - Existing utilities and water supply are adequate to support Falcon 9 launch and landing operations.
  - The proposed increase of Falcon 9 launch operations and new landing pad are not expected to increase demand or use of natural resources and energy supply.



# Impact Categories Not Analyzed in Detail

- Farmlands
  - No prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance is present thus there would be no impact to farmlands.
- Children's Environmental Health and Safety
  - The Proposed Action includes activities that regularly occur at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, thus there would be no impacts that would result in a disproportionate health and safety risk to children.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
  - There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers located near the Proposed Action.



## Biological Resources Effects

- The FAA has determined that the Proposed Action would not result in significant terrestrial or marine wildlife and habitat effects.
- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the Proposed Action may affect and is likely to adversely affect terrestrial ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat.
  - National Marine Fisheries Service to determine whether the Proposed Action may affect and is likely to adversely affect marine ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat.



# Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use (Engine Noise)

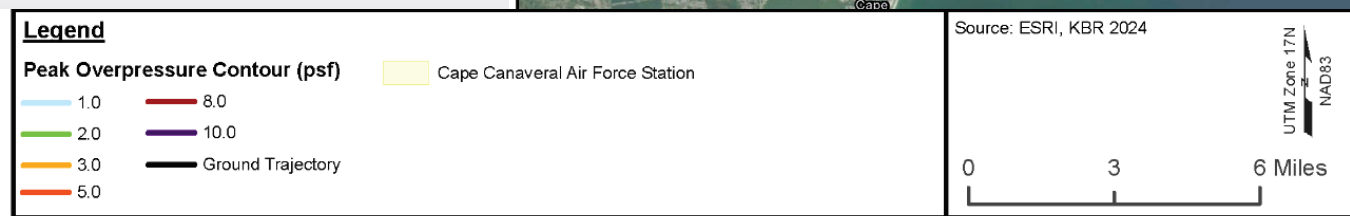
- Potential noise effects could occur from construction, static fire tests, launches, and booster landings.
- The FAA has determined that there would be no significant noise effects.





# Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use (Sonic Booms)

- Sonic booms generated during rocket ascent would occur over the ocean.
- Booster landing sonic booms would not exceed hearing or structural damage thresholds outside of CCSFS and KSC.

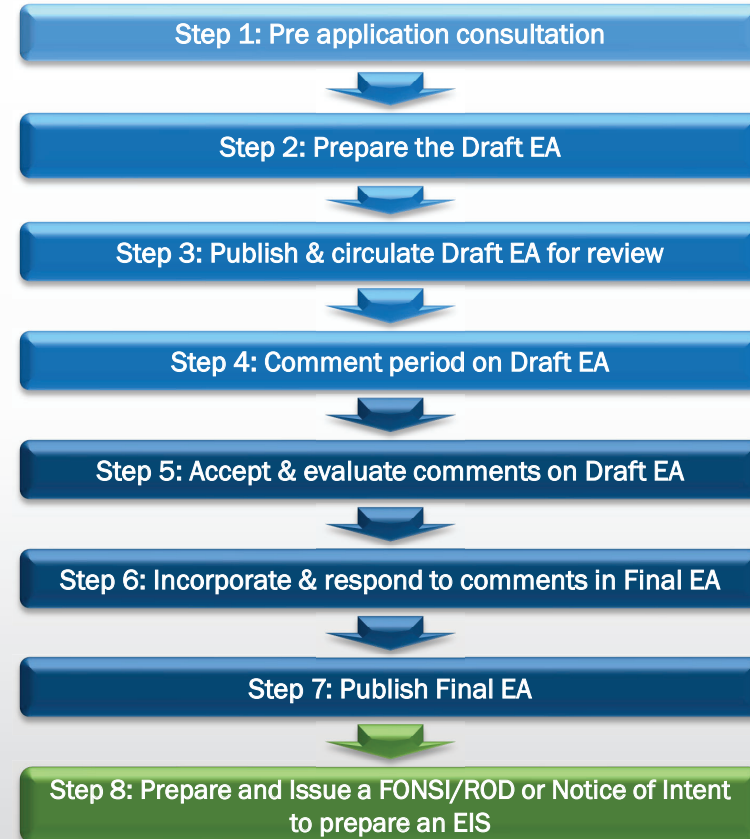




# Stakeholder Engagement Schedule

- **Draft EA Preparation**
  - Coordination with agencies
- **Publication of Draft EA**
  - March 14, 2025
- **Public Meetings on Draft EA**
  - Virtual meeting on April 16, 2025
- **Comment Period Closes**
  - April 24, 2025
- **Next Steps**
  - Incorporate comments on Draft EA and publish Final EA

WE ARE HERE



# Comments on the Draft EA

- Provide an oral comment to the court reporter at tonight's meeting
- Submit electronically to: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Search for Docket No. FAA-2025-0114
  - Click on the "Comment" button, enter your information and comment, then click "Submit Comment"
- Mail to:  
Ms. Eva Long, FAA Environmental Specialist, c/o ICF  
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Reston, VA 20190
- Comment period closes on April 24, 2025
- Subscribe to the project mailing list, view the FAA Draft EA and DAF's Draft FONSI at:
  - [https://www.faa.gov/space/stakeholder\\_engagement/SpaceX\\_Falcon\\_SLC\\_40\\_EA](https://www.faa.gov/space/stakeholder_engagement/SpaceX_Falcon_SLC_40_EA)



# Providing Public Comments

- Helpful Types of Comments on the Draft EA
  - Accuracy of information
  - Adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used in the environmental analysis
  - New information relevant to the analysis or that would change the conclusions
  - New alternatives that meet the purpose and need statement, are feasible, and are substantially different than the alternatives already considered
  - Where clarification is needed
- Comments also welcomed on the Department of the Air Force Draft FONSI

**The public comment period ends on April 24, 2025.**



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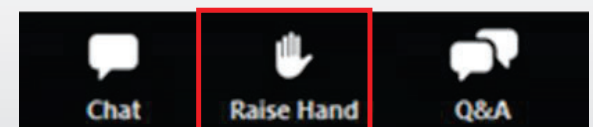
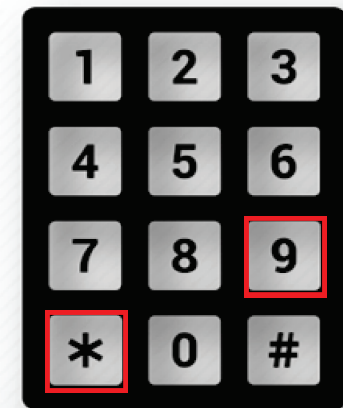
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**5 Minute Break**



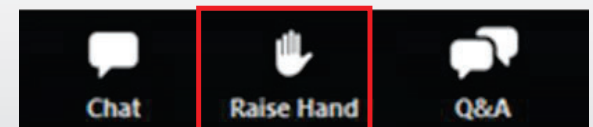
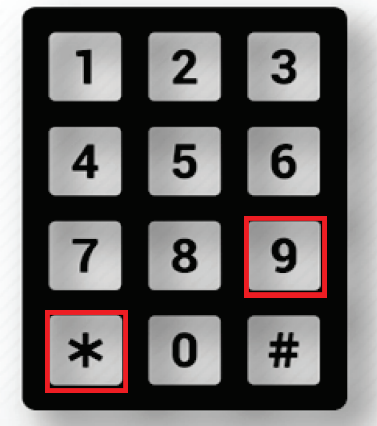
# Order of Public Comments

- We will start by calling on those who registered in advance to comment. The Facilitator will call on them in the order they registered
- Once those comments are completed, others will be invited to comment
- Commenters will be called on by the Facilitator in the order they raised their hands



# Open for Public Comments

- To comment, use the 'raise hand' button in Zoom (or \*9 phone-only participants)
- When you are called upon, the Facilitator will invite you to unmute your line
- Please state and spell your name when you begin
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes. For comments more than 3 minutes, you can submit your comments in writing



The public comment period ends on April 24, 2025.



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**Comments limited to 3 minutes**

**03:00**





# Comments on the Draft EA

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