



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Office of the Chief Counsel
Aviation Litigation Division, AGC-300

800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 25901

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

February 17, 2023

CERTIFIED MAIL, FIRST-CLASS MAIL, & EMAIL

President
Space Exploration Technologies Corp
1 Rocket Road
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Ms. Allison Crutchfield
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Space Exploration Technologies Corp
1 Rocket Road
Hawthorne, CA 90250
Email: [REDACTED]

Corporation Service Company
Registered Agent for Space Exploration Technologies Corp
251 Little Falls Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808

Re: *Space Exploration Technologies Corp*, EIR No. 2022WA990004

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Based upon the following facts and circumstances, it appears that Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) violated the regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration:

1. SpaceX was the holder of launch license number LLO 18-105, authorizing the launch of Falcon 9 launch vehicles from Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.
2. On August 19, 2022, SpaceX launched the Falcon 9 Starlink Group 4-27 mission.
3. SpaceX did not submit launch collision avoidance analysis trajectory data to the FAA prior to the launch of the Starlink Group 4-27 mission.

Based on the foregoing, it appears that SpaceX failed to comply with 14 C.F.R. § 450.169(f), which provides in pertinent part that an operator must prepare a collision avoidance analysis worksheet for each launch or reentry using a standardized format that contains the input data required by appendix A to part 450 and provide it to the FAA at least 7 days before the first

attempt at the flight of a launch vehicle or the reentry of a reentry vehicle. The data required by appendix A includes the trajectory files referenced in paragraph (d) of appendix A.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 50917(c), as adjusted for inflation pursuant to 14 C.F.R. § 406.9(a), SpaceX is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$262,666 for each violation of the Federal Aviation Regulations. After reviewing all of the information contained in our investigative file, we propose to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$175,000.

Enclosed is information on SpaceX's options in responding to this Notice. The options include participating in an informal conference with an FAA attorney and submitting information to the FAA for consideration. SpaceX must submit, in writing, its choice of the alternatives explained on the enclosed information form within 30 days of receiving this Notice. If SpaceX fails to submit its choice within 30 days of its receipt of this Notice, it will have no further right to participate in the informal procedures.

Please direct all communication to attorney Chris Stevenson, contact information below.

Taneesha D. Marshall
Acting Assistant Chief Counsel for Aviation Litigation

**CHRISTOPHER
R STEVENSON** Digitally signed by
CHRISTOPHER R
STEVENSON
Date: 2023.02.17 09:09:03
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By: _____

CHRIS STEVENSON
Senior Attorney
Office of the Chief Counsel/Aviation Litigation Division (AGC-300)
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ENCLOSURE: Information Sheet and Reply Form

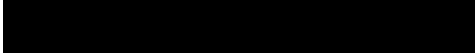
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice of Proposed Civil penalty in Space Exploration Technologies, EIR No. 2022WA990004, has been sent by certified and first-class mail to:

President
Space Exploration Technologies Corp
1 Rocket Road
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Ms. Allison Crutchfield
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Space Exploration Technologies Corp
1 Rocket Road
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Corporation Service Company
Registered Agent for Space Exploration Technologies Corp
251 Little Falls Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808

and by email to: 

EDEN D. ARMSTEAD Digitally signed by EDEN D. ARMSTEAD
Date: 2023.02.17 09:11:39 -05'00'

EDEN ARMSTEAD
Management and Program Assistant