

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE:** KSC-02-18

**National Environmental Policy Act:** John F. Kennedy Space Center, Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Operations Area, Environmental Assessment (EA), Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**ACTION:** Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; 14 CFR Part 1216, Subpart 1216.3; and NASA policy and procedures, NASA has made a FONSI with respect to the proposed SpaceX Operations Area on Roberts Road on KSC, Florida. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to develop a site that supports the multiple requirements of SpaceX in its pursuit of a complete local, efficient, and reusable launch vehicle program. The action is in partial fulfillment of the United States (U.S.) expectation of more affordable transportation, exploration, development, and use of space. NASA's Proposed Action is to develop and implement an Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) for the Roberts Road property on KSC in support of (1) NASA's mandate to encourage the fullest commercial use of space; (2) National Aeronautics and Space Act goals; and (3) National Space Policy that Federal agencies shall ensure U.S. Government space technology and infrastructure is made available for commercial use.

**DATE:** This Proposed Action may proceed as of the date of signature of this FONSI.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments or questions should be addressed to:

Mr. Donald Dankert  
Environmental Management Branch  
NASA Kennedy Space Center  
Mail Code: SI-E3  
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899  
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A limited number of hard copies of the Final EA are available by contacting Mr. Donald Dankert at the address above, electronic mail address, or telephone indicated herein. The Final EA is available online in Acrobat format at <https://environmental.ksc.nasa.gov/EnvironmentalPlanning/NEPA>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NASA initiated a 30-day public review and comment period for the Draft EA for the SpaceX Operations Area on KSC, Florida, by publishing a notice in the *Florida Today* newspaper on June 9, 2018, and by providing copies to the Florida State Clearinghouse. The public review period closed on July 10, 2018. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission submitted comments on June 26, 2018. NASA received comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, on July 30, 2018. These comments were considered in the Final EA preparation. NASA determined the Final EA represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. This FONSI incorporates the Final EA by reference. This EA addresses potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Both were evaluated for impacts of construction and operation of the SpaceX Roberts Road development, including the following:

- A launch and landing control center
- Booster and fairing processing and storage facility
- Rocket garden
- Security office
- Utilities yard

This Operations Area will support the growing SpaceX Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch manifest at Launch Complex (LC) 39A and LC-40. The No Action Alternative assumes there would be no EUL between NASA and SpaceX for the Roberts Road site, and the SpaceX Operations Area would not be built on KSC.

Environmental impacts from the Proposed Action construction and associated operations were classified as none, minimal, moderate, or major. The EA considered the following resource areas:

- Land use/visual resources
- Noise
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Air quality
- Climate
- Hazardous materials/hazardous waste (includes solid waste and pollution prevention)
- Water resources
- Geology and soils
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Health and safety
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental justice

Where NASA anticipates minimal or moderate impacts may occur, SpaceX would employ various best management practices and other mitigation measures, as defined in the Biological Opinion issued by USFWS, during construction and operation of the proposed development. There would be no impacts from the No Action Alternative, with the exception of the local economy not realizing beneficial impacts because of the creation of jobs and labor income. On the basis of the Final EA, I have determined that the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the biological or physical environment.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:**

  
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Robert D. Cabana  
Director, John F. Kennedy Space Center  
Kennedy Space Center, Florida

  
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Date