

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE: KSC-04-19

National Environmental Policy Act: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Starship and Super Heavy Booster at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida.

AGENCY: NASA

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 United States [U.S.] 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; and NASA policy and procedures, 14 CFR Part 1216, Subpart 1216.3, NASA has made a FONSI for the development and launch of the SpaceX Starship and the Super Heavy Booster from Launch Complex (LC) 39A at KSC, Florida. The Proposed Action allows NASA to expand the spaceport in support of the SpaceX Starship and Super Heavy Booster, which will further the mission of expanding the commercial space industry in support of the U.S. goal of near-term lunar exploration.

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
Telephone: 321-861-1196
E-mail: donald.j.dankert@nasa.gov

The final EA is also available online in Acrobat format at <https://environmental.ksc.nasa.gov/EnvironmentalPlanning/NEPA/nepa-comments>. A limited number of hard copies of the final EA are available by contacting Mr. Donald Dankert at the address, electronic mail address, or telephone number indicated herein.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA initiated a 30-day public review and comment period for the draft EA for the SpaceX Starship and Super Heavy Booster at KSC, Florida, by publishing a notice in the *Florida Today* newspaper on August 9, 2019, and by providing copies to the Florida State Clearinghouse. The public review period closed on September 9, 2019.

The National Park Service submitted comments on June 28, 2019. NASA received comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, on July 9, 2019. 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 that were evaluated for the impacts of construction as follows:

1. Launch mount for SpaceX Starship and Super Heavy Booster at LC-39A
2. Liquid methane farm
3. Transport road leading from the pad entrance gate to the launch mount
4. High pressure gaseous commodity lines
5. Deluge water system
6. Landing zone

The Proposed Action would facilitate and support launch and landing operations of the SpaceX Starship and Super Heavy Booster. In addition, it supports NASA's mandate to encourage the commercial use of space, aligns with the goals of the National Aeronautics and Space Act, and advances the National Space Policy that requires Federal agencies to ensure that U.S. Government space technology and infrastructure are made available for commercial use on a reimbursable, noninterference, and equitable basis. Environmental impacts from the Proposed Action construction and associated operations were classified as none, minimal, moderate, or major. The No Action Alternative assumes there would be no formal agreements with SpaceX for use of NASA assets to provide services and commodities to enable the launch of the SpaceX Starship and Super Heavy Booster.

The EA considered the following resource areas:

1. Land use and visual resources
2. Noise
3. Biological resources
4. Cultural resources
5. Air quality

6. Climate
7. Hazardous materials/hazardous waste (includes solid waste and pollution prevention)
8. Water resources
9. Geology and soils
10. Transportation
11. Utilities
12. Health and safety
13. Socioeconomics
14. Environmental justice
15. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, Section 4(f)

Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the proposed action is ongoing with the USFWS. Construction operations will commence following the conclusion of the ESA consultation with USFWS. Where NASA anticipates minimal or moderate impacts may occur, SpaceX would employ various best management practices and environmental mitigation measures during construction and operation of the Proposed Action. Any additional mitigation measures, conservation measures, or terms and conditions related to threatened and endangered species will be implemented during construction and operation of the Proposed Action. There would be no impacts from the No Action Alternative, with the exception of the local economy not realizing beneficial impacts that would have come from the creation of jobs and labor income. On the basis of the final EA, NASA has 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:



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



Date