

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

### Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the November 2007 Environmental Assessment for the Operation and Launch of the Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 Space Vehicles Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS), Florida

#### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, and *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (32 CFR Part 989), the U.S. Air Force (USAF) adopts the SEA prepared by Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) to address the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed operation and launch of the Falcon 9 version 1.1 (v1.1) space vehicle at Launch Complex-40 (LC-40), CCAFS, Florida. That SEA, *Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment to the November 2007 Environmental Assessment of the Operation and Launch of the Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 Space Vehicles, July 2013*, is attached and incorporated by reference. The SEA analyzed impacts associated with modifications to the Falcon 9 Block 1 version launch vehicle which includes a taller first stage, more on-board fuel (RP-1 and LOX) for stages one and two, and greater engine thrust at lift-off from LC-40. The USAF has determined that the SEA is current, satisfactorily meets 32 CFR Part 989 requirements, and adequately addresses impacts associated with the operation and launch of the Falcon 9 version 1.1 vehicle at CCAFS.

In accordance with 32 CFR Part 989.9, the USAF released the draft SEA for public review along with a draft FONSI for actions affecting USAF property. These documents were made available to the affected public for a 15-day review/comment period from 30 Jul 13 to 14 Aug 13. The affected public was notified by advertisements placed in a locally reviewed newspaper. The documents were also made available by placing them on file in two local public libraries and the 45 SW Public Affairs Office. No public comments were received.

#### ***Proposed Actions Occurring on USAF Property***

- The Proposed Action includes launching the Falcon 9 v1.1 vehicle at LC-40 which is approximately 27% taller than the previously launched Falcon 9 Block 1. The newer version vehicle also carries approximately 60% more first stage fuel and 100% more second stage fuel. The first stage newer engines (Merlin D) thrust is approximately 63% more than the Falcon 9 Block 1 Merlin engines.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The SEA addressed impacts associated with the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. Two alternative launch locations originally assessed (but not selected) in the 2007 EA, were considered in the SEA; however, they were not carried forward for analysis since implementation of those alternatives would incur substantial environmental impact.

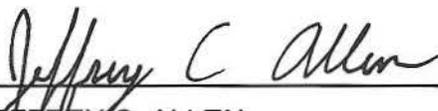
Effects to land use, noise, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, orbital debris, hazardous materials/waste, water resources, geology/soils, transportation, utilities, health and safety, socioeconomics and 4(f) properties were assessed and presented in Chapter 4 of the SEA. The analysis revealed negligible to minor effects on those resources from direct launch operations. Likewise, cumulatively, the effects to these resources would be negligible to minor as described in Chapter 5. There would be no effect on federally listed species, as well as cultural resources; therefore, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the

National Marine Fisheries Service, and the State Historic Preservation Office is not required. Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in concurrence with the U.S. Air Force's "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination for listed species.

No significant environmental impacts were identified that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Minor impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action were identified and addressed in the SEA.

***Finding of No Significant Impact***

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. §§4321-4347), as amended, and 32 CFR 989, 15 Jul 1999, and amended 28 Mar 2001, an assessment of the identified environmental effects has been prepared for the proposed operation and launch of the Falcon 9 v1.1 vehicle from LC-40 at CCAFS. I find that the action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment; thus, an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information and considering a full range of practicable alternatives that will meet project requirements and that are within the legal authority of USAF.

  
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JEFFREY C. ALLEN  
SES, DAF  
Director of Logistics, Installations  
and Mission Support

30 SEP 13  
Date