

Webinar: The Proposed Camden Spaceport and Birds

Question and Answer Session Transcript

Question	Answer(s)	
<p>Why would we need a launch site in Georgia when Merritt Island is so near?</p>	<p>Camden County is proposing this spaceport as an economic development project. The FAA has not evaluated whether the project is actually needed; they view their role as limited to evaluating whether the project meets the minimum safety requirements. They have issued licenses for projects that were never built because there was no market demand for them.</p>	
<p>Isn't DNR's coastal consistency decision primarily oriented to standards of Georgia's "Coastal Management Program" - not literally a plan, but a set of NOAA-approved policies and principles for wisely managing the balance between conservation and development?</p>	<p>Yes. DNR is evaluate whether the Spaceport proposal is consistent with the polices in Georgia's coastal management plan. Some of those are similar to federal laws but others are different.</p>	
<p>Even though the environmental impact likely changed with the change to goal of launching smaller rockets, the gov't doesn't need to base their decision on a new or updated environmental impact study?</p>	<p>We believe that the law requires the FAA to update their environmental review to reflect this change but their current position is that they do not plan to do so.</p>	
<p>It's my understanding that there is simply inadequate information available provided by FAA with which DNR/CRD can base a reliable decision through the Coastal Consistency Certification review process. Given the risks to property, lives, environmental resources and unique recreational assets within the spaceport "hazard zone," such deficiencies substantiate serious threats that have not been resolved. Do you agree, and if so, isn't that alone a sufficient rationale for objecting to the CCC being issued, and for legally challenging it if needed?</p>	<p>Dave, you must have been reading the draft letter I circulated earlier today?</p>	
<p>By switching to smaller rockets, did they also increase the potential number of rocket launches? In other words, would they launch more small rockets compared to large rockets? And thereby increasing the chance that the area would be hit by debris even more?</p>	<p>They still plan to launch 12 rockets per year. That has not changed.</p>	

Historically, did Native Americans practice Cultural Burns (prescribed fire) on Cumberland and Little Cumberland?	I do not know, one way or the other.	
The applicable jargon in the CRD review for CCC determination is the coastal management "program" not "plan." The only coastal "plan" is the one prepared and adopted by the coastal regional commission, under Georgia's Planning Act. We need to be careful not to confuse these two completely different documents, authorities, and processes.	live answered	
What types of payloads would be shot up? It seems that some of the content might have "interesting" effects on the munitions and other dumps besides potentially "just" releasing it into the environment.	They do not know exactly what the rockets will carry at this point. They are considering this proposal based on a hypothetical rocket and make assumptions about variables like weight, payload weight, and thrust.	
I did not review that letter - I'm not aware of it - was I included in the distribution?	You should reach out to Brian about this.	
Are there any studies to show the impact the Boca Chica site has had on the area birds?	live answered	Answered live
From the potential debris field, it seems they could potentially take out structures / humans on the southern half of Jekyll - GA state and Jekyll are OK with that risk? Would Jekyll have to tell visitors, especially during times of launch?	These are the kinds of concerns we believe the Georgia DNR should be considering.	
how did the Kennedy Space Center affect birds, etc on Merritt Island. Is this project worse than Kennedy?	live answered	
Since FAA plans now to issue the FEIS without further comment, it seems that the only next chance to influence the project is when they have to get environmental review for their Launch Permit Application?	live answered	Answered live
What is the relation between the "hazard zones" and the areas to be evacuated at time of launch? I presume that the evacuation areas are much larger due to navigational errors potentially caused by failed launches.	live answered	
Has the environmental impact study also reviewed the impact of the toxic rocket exhaust? Rocket fuel/exhaust is highly	live answered	

toxic. I would imagine the birds would be impacted by exhaust fumes.		
How can FAA legally issue the final EIS given the widely acknowledged lack of complete information?	live answered	
Where can we find information on effects on aquatic life, like turtles, dolphin, whales, etc.?	live answered	
I understand that Camden plans to use our protected salt marsh as a buffer for the spaceport. Does Camden have rights to do that?	live answered	
Do you have any data about possible dangers of toxic chemicals from rockets overhead - or from failed launches (blown up) - OR from the migrating plume of toxins on the launch site property?	This was just answered. Some air quality was studied but not a detailed mode.	
Is there any need for another spaceport?	live answered	
Will a copy of this be posted?	Yes, a recording will be sent to registrants	Dottie said that GA Audubon is recording the presentation and will share it on our YouTube Channel within a day or two
I read a few years back of a study showing high levels on lead and other heavy metals in alligators livers at Merritt Island. Anyone know about that?	I am not familiar with this or if it is connected to rocket launches. If I can find anything, I will include it in our followup email to the participants	
Does the US Fish and Wildlife Service have a say in this approval process?	live answered	
Are there changes in the area since the initial applications were made?	live answered	
is the spaceport being developed and managed by a govement agency or totally private. where are other space ports?	live answered	
Would campers on Cumberland be in potential danger?	live answered	
From Deby Glidden: In the past the FAA has scrubbed launches with one sailboat unexpectedly present. This situation is very dangerous to people on CI and LCI. I don't		

understand how the FAA can even consider this.		
Launches get scrubbed and rescheduled all the time. Does that mean that the Coast Guard exclusion zone could end up being closed way more than the 12 launches Camden is applying for?	live answered	
How much scope drift does there tend to be once such a project is completed?	live answered	
What about the new land acquisitions nearby	live answered	
If the license is approved is there an expiration date for building the spaceport?	live answered	
Would the spaceport affect the nearby King's Bay Naval Base? Have they had any say / concerns with this development?	live answered	
Is there also a threat of adding another launch pad?	live answered	
Curious how many attendees do you have for this presentation? It has been excellent BTW.	live answered	We had about 130 registered and the highest attendance I saw was 89.
Why do you think the NPS and navy haven't stopped this ?	live answered	