

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE SITE, LAUNCH,
REENTRY AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS AT THE KISTLER LAUNCH
FACILITY, NEVADA TEST SITE (NTS)**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), lead Federal agency and the Department of Energy (DOE), cooperating agency.

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the FAA initiated a 30-day public review and comment period of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Site, Launch, Reentry and Recovery Operations at the Kistler Launch Facility, Nevada Test Site (NTS). A public meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 2, 2000, to record verbal comments from the public. The comments were addressed in a Comment Response Document and in the Final Environmental Assessment where appropriate.

ABSTRACT: The Final Environmental Assessment for the Site, Launch, Reentry and Recovery Operations at the Kistler Launch Facility, NTS specifically addresses the environmental impacts of the proposed action of licensing commercial launch and reentry operations at the NTS. These operations would include certain pre-flight processing activities, launch/flight operations, as well as landing and recovery operations. In order to conduct these operations, Kistler proposes to construct a base of operations consisting of a private launch site (including a vehicle processing facility), a vehicle reentry, landing and recovery area, and a payload processing facility.

Prior to selecting the NTS as its preferred launch base, Kistler explored alternatives throughout the United States. Kistler considered locating at the California Spaceport® at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Spaceport Florida Authority's Launch Complex at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and the proposed Southwest Regional Spaceport near White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Potential impacts of the proposed action including safety and health, land use, air resources, noise, socioeconomics, visual resources, biological resources, water resources, geology and soils, cultural and Native American resources, and transportation were considered in the Environmental Assessment.

Cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed action specifically considered include: air emissions, reusable launch vehicle engine noise, socioeconomic factors, biological resources, and cultural and Native American resources.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Questions regarding the proposed action and the Final Environmental Assessment for the Site, Launch, Reentry and Recovery Operations at the Kistler Launch Facility, Nevada Test Site; can be addressed to Ms. Michon Washington, Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, Suite 331/AST-100, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; email Michon.Washington@faa.gov or phone (202) 267-9305.

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