



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of Commercial Space Transportation

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

October 5, 2023

Dawn Gardiner
Assistant Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
Corpus Christi Office
4444 Corona Drive, Suite 215
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411
Submitted to: Dawn_Gardiner@fws.gov and Chuck_Ardizzone@fws.gov

RE: Request to Reinitiate Formal Consultation under Endangered Species Act Section 7 for the SpaceX Starship-Super Heavy Project, Cameron County, Texas

Dear Ms. Gardiner,

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is evaluating changes to SpaceX Exploration Technologies Corporation's (SpaceX) Starship-Super Heavy launch vehicle program at its Boca Chica Launch Site in Cameron County, Texas. SpaceX previously obtained a vehicle operator license from the FAA to operate Flight 1 of the Starship-Super Heavy at the Boca Chica Launch Site. SpaceX must modify its existing vehicle operator license for Flight 2 operations. For Flight 2, SpaceX is adding a water deluge system to suppress noise and dust during operation. The FAA is currently assessing the potential environmental impacts associated with the addition of the deluge system for a modification to SpaceX's license for Flight 2. The assessment of impacts includes potential effects to species listed and critical habitat designated under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The FAA is submitting the attached revised Addendum to the October 2021 Biological Assessment (BA) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service per Section 7 of the ESA and is requesting to reinitiate formal consultation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please contact Amy Hanson, Environmental Specialist, at Amy.Hanson@faa.gov or (847) 243-7609 to discuss any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stacey M. Zee
Manager, Support Operations Branch

Attachment: October 5, 2023, Revised Addendum to October 2021 Biological Assessment