



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

Office of Commercial Space Transportation

800 Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20591

August 11, 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\_Ardizzzone@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 programs 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. The FAA is currently assessing the potential environmental impacts of the vehicle operator license for Flight 2. Following the April 2023 launch, SpaceX reinforced its launch pad with thicker concrete and steel plates. During launches, SpaceX may either operate a water deluge system or add an extra steel plate to the launch pad when the deluge system is not used. 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 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. Please be advised that the FAA is in the process of completing safety evaluations as part of the evaluation of a license for

Flight 2. Conclusions within the Addendum may be subject to change. The FAA understands that the USFWS may restart the consultation timeline if the results of any safety evaluations cause any of the conclusions within the Addendum to change.

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: Addendum to October 2021 Biological Assessment