



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

Commercial Space Transportation

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

December 16, 2019

Mr. James H. Starline
Chairman, Camden County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 99
200 East 4th Street
Woodbine, Georgia 31569

Dear Mr. Starline:

Per your request, under the provisions of 14 CFR § 413.15(b), the FAA agrees to toll the review period for the evaluation of your license application to operate a launch site in Camden County, Georgia. The tolling is effective December 14, 2019, the 178th day of the 180-day review period.

This action is in response to your letter dated December 14, 2019, in which you notified the FAA of Camden County's amendment to its license application, in accordance with 14 CFR § 413.17(b), to limit operations to the launch of small launch vehicles from its proposed site. Furthermore, you requested in your letter that the FAA pause its 180-day review period until the FAA has an opportunity to perform an independent safety analysis on a representative small launch vehicle and address any other issues or concerns. Prior to receiving your December 14 letter, the FAA had conducted an independent review of the medium-large vehicle, the heaviest weight class planned to be flown from the proposed Camden County launch point per 14 CFR § 420.19(c). However, because you indicated in your December 14 letter that Camden County is amending its license application to limit operations to only the launch of small launch vehicles, the FAA will no longer provide a license determination on a medium-large launch vehicle with a first-stage return.

Camden County must ensure the continuing accuracy of its application, which includes the addendum Camden County submitted to the FAA on December 12, 2019, by removing any references to the medium-large vehicle in its application. You must submit your revised application to the FAA before we begin our analysis of the launch of small launch vehicles from your proposed site.

Also, please be advised there remain issues/concerns that have not yet been satisfactorily resolved:

Fire - A launch accident may cause an uncontrollable fire on LCI or Big Cumberland Island. Access to LCI for firefighting and egress from LCI for evacuation are limited.

U.S. National Security - The Department of Defense (DoD) has concerns that the proximity of launch operations to a vital U.S. Navy base might jeopardize foreign policy or national security interests of the United States.

Environmental Assessment - Camden County has not completed the environmental review process.

Even with the proposed narrowing of your application scope, there is no assurance the FAA will make a favorable license determination in view of the issues raised above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenneth Wong
Manager
Licensing and Evaluation Division

cc: Steve Howard