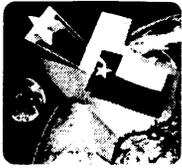


64695

TEXAS AEROSPACE
COMMISSION



Commissioners
David Carr
Walter Cunningham
William Juett
Lee Kaplan
Anne McNamara

James Royer
Bryon Sehlke
T.C. Selman II
Norma Webb

Executive Director

Thomas L. Moser

September 22, 1999

U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets
Docket No. FAA-1999-5833 - 11
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Room Plaza 401
Washington, D.C. 20590

Internet: 9-NPRM-CMTS@faa.gov

Subject: Comments on Docket No. FAA-19996833, Notice No. 99-07

To Whom it may concern:

The Texas Aerospace Commission (TAC) has identified several major issues which should be addressed concerning licensing of a launch site.

1. The proposed rules, as written, do not "simplify further the licensing process for launch operators." They preclude approval of any new launch sites which are not already at federal ranges. Such a ruling will stop the progress being made in Texas and other states to secure investments and commitments for the development of safe, efficient and modern commercial spaceports.

The TAC recommends that the FAA, through consultation with the reusable launch vehicle developers and proposed launch site operators/developers, establish a safe, less conservative, and simplified method of calculating E₀.

2. Federal Launch Ranges should not be exempt. If the emerging RLV's and planned commercial spaceports are to succeed, they must be able to compete on a equal basis.

The TAC recommends that all commercial launches be treated equally from any location and standardized practices should be established.

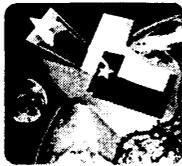
3. The rules should be established considering the safety characteristics of RLV's. The proposed rules reflect the characteristics of expendable launch vehicles (ELV).

The TAC recommends that the proposed rules reflect RLV's.

The TAC compliments the FAA on the success and efforts to ensure safe space launches. It faces a difficult, but feasible, challenge of establishing new rules which balance previous experiences of ELV's and characteristics of RLV's. This must be

1999 SEP 23 P 4: 1
OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF COUNSEL
RULES DOCKET

TEXAS AEROSPACE
COMMISSION



David Carr
Walter Cunningham
William Juett
Lee Kaplan
Anne McNamara

Commissioners

James Rover
Bryon Sehlke
T. C. Selman II
Norma Webb

Executive Director

Thomas L. Moser

done in order to enable development of the latter, which has the potential of being safer, more reliable, and lower cost.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "T. L. Moser". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the page.

Thomas L. Moser
Executive Director