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OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF COUNSEL
FAA DOCKET

1999 SEP 22 A 10:03

Docket No. FAA-1999-5833 does not specifically address the flight testing of launch vehicles from a proposed launch site. Historical data indicates that ALL launch vehicles during the flight test period, have experienced catastrophic in-flight failures. This unacceptable failure rate requires that all population (including ground and air traffic) be removed from the areas defined by the instantaneous impact points of the nominal and worst case dispersed trajectories of the flight test vehicle. In addition to environmental impact, this flight test corridor must also be free of all high value property and hazardous storage areas (explosives, biological chemical storage, etc..).

White Sands Missile Range (WMRS) has set the standard for testing experimental launch vehicles within the continental United States. They require that all the population be removed from the test range. All ground and air traffic in the test range is prohibited during the flight tests.

The FAA must establish this "experimental flight testing category" for flights from launch sites under their jurisdiction. For the FAA to require anything less for experimental launch vehicle tests would subject the public to very high risks.

Don A. Nelson

Aerospace Consultant

281-331-1674

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