


DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS ORGANIZATION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLES

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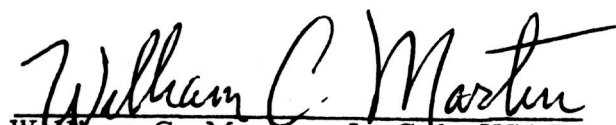
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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLES

Summary

1. This environmental impact statement is in final form.
2. This action is entitled "United States Air Force Space Launch Vehicles." It is an administrative action.
3. This environmental statement encompasses the family of Titan III, Atlas and Scout space launch vehicles. These vehicles were developed and/or are being operated under the direction of the Space and Missile Systems Organization of the Air Force Systems Command. The major activity covered by this statement is launch. This activity is concentrated in, but is not restricted to California and Florida.
4. The potential environmental impacts expected from vehicle launch are summarized in Table 1. Infrequent short term, non-persistent air pollution occurs close to the launch complex. In the unlikely event of on-pad aborts or accidents occurring to any of the USAF Space Launch Vehicles, it is anticipated that any resulting air pollution will be less than Public Emergency Limits established by the National Academy of Science and would not be expected to cause damage to life or property. Such air pollution that does occur is a transient effect expected to last for only a few minutes over any given ground location. Containment provisions at launch complexes prevent spilled propellants or contaminated process waters from being released without appropriate treatment. Effects on ocean waters from unlikely vehicle abort (accident) condition are of local transient significance. Noise pollution occurring from three to four minutes at each launch, aside from the annoyance factor, is deemed of little environmental significance. Chances of adverse effects from reentry debris are remote.
5. Alternatives considered include the use of different propellants, relocation of launch sites, and the use of scrubber equipment to trap pollutants. None of these alternatives is deemed physically or economically

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF USAF SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLES

| TYPE OF EVENT OR ACTIVITY | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| Area of Concern | Normal Launch | Accident or Abort | Development |
| Air Pollution | No significant effect for Titan IIIB, Atlas, Scout. Short term, localized, non-persistent exposure to HCl concentrations above criteria level may be possible in controlled area for Titan IIIC and Titan IIID launches. | No significant effect. (Pollution will occur in the immediate vicinity of the launch pad.) | No significant effect |
| Water Pollution | No significant effect | Localized, short term, non-persistent, pollution In ocean water may result from improbable Combinations of events for all vehicles. | No significant effect |
| Noise | No significant effect | No significant effect | No significant effect |
| Reentry Debris | No significant effect | No significant effect | No significant effect |
| Environmental Enhancement | None | None | None |
| Commitment of Resources | No significant commitment of scarce or limited resources. | No significant commitment of scarce or limited resources. | No commitment of scarce or limited resources. |

practicable. Our space launch vehicles exist to place space packages in orbit to achieve priority scientific or defense objectives. There is no other way to launch these payloads.

6. Comments on the draft environmental statement were received from the organization listed below. Responses to these comments are provided.

Department of Interior
Environmental Protection Agency
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Resources Agency of California
Department of Agriculture
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

7. The draft statement was made available to the Council on Environmental Quality and the public in August 1973.