

FCC Environmental Assessment Processing – NEPA Checklist Compliance

Project Description

A Starlink Community Gateway is proposed to be installed on the roof of the Alaska Communications' Central Office Building located at 107 Cathedral Way, Sitka, Alaska 99835 ("the Proposed Gateway"). A Starlink Community Gateway is a carrier-grade internet backhaul system that provides high-capacity internet services to towns, islands, internet service providers, mobile networks, and remote regions. Functionally, it is a miniature internet hub that is supported by Starlink satellites. A rendering of the Proposed Gateway is included in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below. No ground disturbance is proposed, as the Proposed Gateway is located on the roof of an existing building. Based on SpaceX Services, Inc.'s evaluation of the Proposed Gateway in view of each of the circumstances listed in 47 C.F.R. § 1.1307 and the NEPA checklist below, the Proposed Gateway will not have a significant environmental impact and therefore does not require the filing of an Environmental Assessment ("EA").

Figure 1. Proposed Gateway rendering as viewed from Cathedral Way.



Figure 2. Proposed Gateway rendering as viewed from Seward Street.



NEPA Checklist

- 1) Facility will be located in an officially designated wilderness area. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is not located within a designated wilderness area.

- 2) Facility will be located in an officially designated wildlife preserve. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is not located within a designated wildlife preserve.

- 3) Facility may affect listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats, or is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed endangered or threatened species or likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is located within an urban area. Construction would occur on the roof of an existing building. There would be no effect on protected species or critical habitat.

- 4) Facility may affect districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture, that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Yes () No (X)

The US Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey Seismological and Geomagnetic House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is located approximately 120 feet west of the Proposed Gateway. While the Proposed Gateway would be visible from this location, it is consistent with the existing viewshed of the US Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey Seismological and Geomagnetic House that currently overlooks HVAC and other equipment on the roof of the Alaska Communications' Central Office Building. St. Michael's Cathedral is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is located approximately 170 feet south of the Proposed Gateway. The Proposed Gateway would not be visible from this resource, as the view is blocked by the adjacent building. Additionally, the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission reviewed and approved, without modification, the Proposed Gateway on June 10, 2026. Accordingly, the Proposed Gateway would have no effect on resources that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 5) Facility may affect Indian religious sites. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is located on the roof of an existing building and therefore would not affect Indian religious sites.

- 6) Facility will be located in a floodplain, if the facility will not be placed at least one foot above the base flood elevation of the floodplain. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is located on the roof of an existing structure and therefore is not located within a floodplain.

- 7) Facility construction will involve significant change in surface features (e.g., wetland fill, deforestation, significant tree removal, or water diversion). Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is located on the roof of an existing structure and therefore would not change any surface features.

- 8) Facility (antenna tower and/or supporting structures) will be equipped with high intensity white lights and located in a residential neighborhood, as defined by the applicable zoning law. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway would not be equipped with high intensity white lights.

- 9) Facility will cause human exposure to levels of radiofrequency radiation in excess of the Commission-prescribed limits. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway would not cause human exposure to levels of radiofrequency radiation in excess of the Commission-prescribed limits. The Maximum Permissible Exposure ("MPE") limits for all frequencies used by these gateway antennas are a power density equal to 5 mW/cm² averaged over a 6-minute period (for Occupational/Controlled Exposure) and 1 mW/cm² averaged over a 30-minute period (for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposure). As noted in the Radiation Hazard Analysis, even if there were 40 antennas (the Proposed Gateway has 4 antennas) all pointing to the same spatial location outside of the site where near field power density is summated and the general population could stand, MPE limits for general population are not exceeded.

To prevent occupational exposure from exceeding occupational limits, SpaceX will meet FCC's requirements for Category III mitigating actions. Gateway antennas will be installed inside of a restricted access area with positive access controls (it is located on a non-public roof), outside of which Radiation Hazard signage (yellow "CAUTION" signs) will be posted. No access by the general public will be allowed, as only occupational personnel can unlock and enter sites. All occupational personnel are trained on the locations of radiation hazards, how to reduce the radiation hazard of a gateway antenna via "lockout/tagout" controls, and how to wear a dosimeter to track their time-averaged dose. Consequently, there is no risk of radiation exposure beyond acceptable occupational limits.

A detailed analysis can be found in the Radiation Hazard Analysis included in the license application.

- 10) Facility will be over 450 feet in height above ground level and will involve either new tower construction, tower modification or replacement constituting a substantial increase in size, or certain changes in lighting, thereby requiring that the EA address the proposed project's effects on migratory birds. Yes () No (X)

The Proposed Gateway is located on the roof of an existing structure and will not involve either new tower construction, tower modification or replacement constituting a substantial increase in size, or certain changes in lighting.