

DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Washington, D.C.

Notice of Availability, Notice of Public Comment Period, Notice of Public Meeting, and Request for Comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Drone Package Delivery in North Carolina

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is announcing the availability of and requesting comments on a draft programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) package delivery operations in the state of North Carolina. The proposed action analyzed in this PEA is UAS operators conducting commercial drone package deliveries under 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 135 in North Carolina. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is the project proponent.

The draft PEA is submitted for review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] §§ 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. § 303), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470). The draft PEA is available to view and download electronically at https://www.faa.gov/uas/advanced_operations/nepa_and_drones/.

The public comment period for the draft PEA begins with the posting of the draft PEA. Comments are due on May 30, 2024, and may be directed in writing to 9-FAA-Drone-Environmental@faa.gov. Please reference the draft PEA for North Carolina in the e-mail subject line when sending comments.

The FAA will hold a public meeting on the draft PEA:

- Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. EDT, via Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84319168260>

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Posted: _____

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