

Powell Township Board 11-21-2023. public comment

Thank you for your work in our township government. And, specifically, for your careful consideration of the spaceport plan for our township that surprised us, becoming public knowledge in July, 2020. The announced plan came with promises of 400-1200 jobs in our area with “high paying” salaries, and little disruption to our ways of life.

You, this Board, requested township citizen involvement to help research this proposal. A spaceport is not a familiar enterprise to most of us. The Spaceport Research Group’s task has been information gathering, not advisory. The group has had the participation of eight residents, has met 12 times since May, 2021, and has gathered and organized information pertinent to four main areas of concern to our township: Launch day impact, Jobs/economic impact, Zoning and local government, Environment.

We have focused on the plans made public by MAMA, on the regulations and requirements of the FAA, EPA, and our township. We focused on the track record, the experiences, of other similar spaceports and rockets in the US. We have identified areas of Powell Township that would be in the evacuation zone on potential launch days. We reported to you and to the Planning Commission twice, in August 2021 and May 2022. We have provided several key references and posted information on the township website for you, the decision makers, and for the public.

In this, I have found the plan to build a spaceport in Powell Township is contrary to our Master Plan/future land use, and not in the best interest of the people of our township.

Please include this written comment in the record of this meeting. I thank you for this opportunity, and sincerely hope our research group efforts have given you a richer perspective with this issue.

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excerpt from Citizens for a Safe and Clean Lake Superior:

Evacuation Zone-Revised 03.24.2021

Here are three views showing the area impacted by the proposed rocket launch. The red circle which is visible in the wide and medium views is the 1,300 foot launch evacuation area required by the FAA. I have placed the center of that circle in the center of the proposed launch facility. The light blue horizontal line is the southern border of Powell Township / northern border of Marquette Township. Note in the wide view that portions of both Eagle's Nest Rd. and County Road 550 fall within the evacuation area. The medium view shows homes in both Powell and Marquette townships that are in the evacuation area. The close view shows homes in Powell that are in the evacuation area.

