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MEDIA ADVISORY

The City of McGregor is always in close contact with SpaceX, and the site is critical to SpaceX operations which include flying supplies to the International Space Station and launching US astronauts from American soil and safely returning them home.

We are proud of the role McGregor plays in the advancement of human spaceflight. That said, we understand the recent concerns about noise produced by the engine tests.

A new vertical test stand for SpaceX’s next generation Raptor engine is already under construction and it will include a below-ground water injection diverter which we hope will be effective at reducing the sound in surrounding areas. The construction methodology is proven by two previous stands which moved to this architecture, after being elevated above ground, with reduced noise as a result. Construction will be completed this year.

*Some background on the SpaceX McGregor Test Site:*

The City of McGregor site has a rich aerospace history. The test site was originally founded in 1942 as the Bluebonnet Ordnance Plant to support the WWII effort and produced bombs and explosives; and Phillips Petroleum Company, Rocketdyne, and Hercules Incorporated have all occupied the site. The test site has produced rocket motors for the Sparrow, Sidewinder, Shrike, and Phoenix missiles as well as the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (ARAAM) and the High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM).

In the 1960s and 70s, the site played a role in the US manned space program by developing second-stage ullage motors for NASA’s Saturn V rocket which were used to take humans to the Moon.

In 1998, Beal Aerospace, a rocket startup founded by Dallas businessman Andrew Beal leased about 250 acres in the industrial park and upgraded the facilities.

SpaceX started operations in McGregor in 2003. They have over 500 employees who live, work and play in McGregor and the surrounding areas. They spend millions each year with Texas suppliers and help support the local and state economies. And while the area has produced noise for almost 80 years, SpaceX has been working diligently for several years toward upgrading its test stands so it produces less noise.