Launch & Remote-Sensing Licensing Readiness: FAA Part 450 & NOAA Part 960

Pillar: Valley & Orbital Readiness | **Basis:** Batch 5 Licensing & Batch 9 Handoffs | **Primary Source:** FAA AST (14 CFR 450) / NOAA CRSRA (15 CFR 960) | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

With the FAA Part 450 transition completed on March 9, 2026, launch providers and remote-sensing operators in Washington must synchronize FAA upper-stage disposal/COLA, NEPA environmental review, NOAA 15 CFR Part 960, and FCC orbital debris filings.

Readiness Checklist & Corpus Traceability

• **Confirm FAA Part 450 Compliance:** All commercial launches operate under Part 450 post-Mar 9, 2026; verify upper-stage disposal and COLA per FAA Part 450 Upper-Stage Disposal and FAA Part 450 (LIVE).

• **Integrate NEPA Early:** Pair launch-site environmental packages with range applications per NEPA Launch Licensing (LIVE).

• **Synchronize NOAA Part 960 & FCC ODMP:** Remote-sensing operators (e.g., BlackSky) must align NOAA CRSRA licensing with FCC orbital debris review per NOAA Part 960 Handoff and BlackSky LEO EO Operations.

• **Verify Range Split:** Remember Washington has no orbital launch range; coordinate out-of-state range licensing per No Orbital Launch Range in WA.

Launch & Remote-Sensing Licensing Readiness Matrix

Regime	Readiness Checkpoint	Corpus Source
FAA 14 CFR 450	Upper-stage disposal, passivation & COLA	#2316 Part 450
NEPA	Range environmental assessment / EIS	#1969 NEPA LIVE
NOAA 15 CFR 960	CRSRA license + FCC ODMP coordination	#2319 NOAA 960
Program Schedule	Align licensing gates to launch manifest	#2082 Program Mgr

Operator Execution & Boundary Notes

• Route schedule dependencies through the Program Manager (Program Manager Desk Brief).

• For rideshare payloads, confirm whether the launch integrator or spacecraft licensee holds primary FCC/NOAA debris filings.

• Keep ORSAT/DAS runs current for optical payloads whose glass/mirrors affect reentry casualty math.

Corpus Source Pieces & Primary Authorities

• **FAA Part 450 Launch Licensing (LIVE):** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-rule-faa-part-450-launch-live/

• **FAA Part 450 Upper-Stage Disposal:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-orbital-faa-part-450-upper-stage/

• **NOAA Part 960 & FCC Debris Handoff:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-orbital-noaa-part-960-handoff/

• **BlackSky LEO EO Operations:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-orbital-blacksky-leo-eo-operations/

• **Program: FAA, NEPA, FCC & ODAR:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-program-faa-nepa-fcc-odar/

• **14 CFR Part 450 (eCFR):** https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-14/chapter-III/subchapter-C/part-450

• **15 CFR Part 960 (eCFR):** https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-15/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/subchapter-D/part-960

Provenance Note: Synthesized from BC ESG Batch 5 (#1966, #1969), Batch 6 (#2082), Batch 8 (#2288), and Batch 9 (#2316, #2319, #2343).