

SPACE SHUTTLE SIGHT

Three major considerations that will be important to NASA in deciding the location of the Space Shuttle Launch Sight are as follows:

(1) LAND AREA

- (a) Approximately 58,000 acres in the immediate range vicinity which will be exposed to 120 decibels sound levels at launch.
- (b) Approximately 360,000 acres around the principal launch area, which will be exposed to 105 decibels.

(2) FLIGHT MECHANICS

- (a) Altitude
- (b) Latitude
- (c) Down range area suitable for aborting the flight

(3) Prevailing weather conditions

(4) Commercial air lanes in vicinity

(5) Existing facilities

- (a) Runway of 15,000 feet will be needed

KANSAS ASSETS

Aviation industry which presently has many unemployed aerospace engineers and technicians.

The central geographic location

Terrain is free from obstruction and hazards for hundreds of miles

Availability of emergency landing areas in the sparsely populated western part of the state.

Higher elevation in Kansas, than in Florida, California, and New Mexico also under consideration. The higher a launch sight is above sea level, the more pay load can be carried.

On the minus side for Kansas is its distance above the equator, because of the earth's rotation, the farther a launch sight is moved to the North, the smaller the possible pay load.

NOTE: The Space Shuttle itself will be a fully reusable two stage craft, which will take off vertically. It will be used to carry men and supplies between earth and orbiting space stations.