



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

MAY 21 2013

Great Lakes Region
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Mr. Matt Nelson
Skydive Chicago CEO
3215 East 1969th Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for your letter dated April 22, 2013, concerning upcoming airspace changes in the Chicago metropolitan area. This letter will address a portion of the concerns you raised and Mr. Bill Cound, Manager of the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center, will provide an additional response shortly.

Your letter identified concerns which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) considered carefully through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that began in 2002. During this process we worked with several other Federal and state agencies, before approving the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). Noise exposure, runway configuration, airspace configuration, air quality and impacts on surrounding communities were addressed through this public process. The FAA presented the analysis publicly through a number of mechanisms, including a series of public meetings, before finalizing and publishing its conclusions in a Record of Decision in September 2005.

The final EIS and Record of Decision are available on line at:
http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_development/omp/eis/. In this document you can find analysis regarding noise, air quality, water quality, compatible land uses, social impacts and many other topics that may be of interest to you.

The modernization of O'Hare International Airport is needed to meet Chicago's aviation demands of the future in a manner that provides improved safety and efficiency for the airport and public. Through its analysis of the OMP, the FAA took great care to examine health and safety concerns to ensure that all appropriate impact mitigation actions are taken.

Thank you for sharing your perspective with the FAA. After you receive Mr. Cound's response, please feel free to contact me again if you have additional concerns.

Sincerely,

Barry D. Cooper
Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region

cc: Bill Cound, Manager, Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center