



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

Office of the Assistant Administrator for
Finance and Management

800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

JUL 11 2014

Thank you for your letters dated Summer 2014, and June 19, 2014, with a request for an Environmental Assessment for the airspace in the Great Lakes area.

As you are aware, the Chicago area airspace has undergone significant redesign in concert with the projects that are part of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). You may not be aware that this airspace redesign, the Chicago Airspace Project, or CAP, was extensive and it involved Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) facilities as distant as Kansas City, KS; Milwaukee, WI; and South Bend, IN. Airspace changes implemented included efficiencies which benefit both the users and airports. Efficiency and safety for the airports you mention were included in this study and these other airports, such as Milwaukee's General Mitchell and Chicago's Midway airports, have benefitted from CAP improvements.

In 2002, the FAA began evaluating all of the proposed development and reconfiguration in the OMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The FAA conducted a series of public meetings and responded to public comments, before finalizing and publishing its conclusions in a Record of Decision in September 2005. Noise exposure, runway configuration, airspace configuration, air quality and impacts on surrounding communities were addressed through the extensive public process. This airspace redesign was included in the EIS that analyzed the O'Hare Modernization.

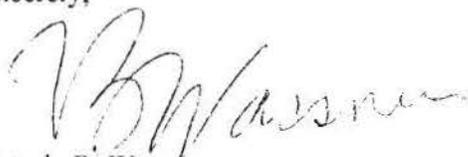
The final stage of CAP was completed in October 2013 with the commissioning of Runway 10C/28C at O'Hare. CAP includes many improvements as compared to the previous airspace design prior to the OMP.

Additionally, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for new and revised air traffic procedures and departure headings for Midway. The Draft EA was released in February 2013, a public hearing was held in March 2013, and a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision was issued in June 2013.

With all the improvements and assessments listed above, the FAA is not currently pursuing another comprehensive airspace evaluation.

Thank you for sharing your perspective with the FAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria B. Wassmer".

Victoria B. Wassmer
Assistant Administrator for
Finance and Management

cc: James R. Spensley, President, South Metro Airport Action Council