



The Village of
Glenview

Village President
(847) 904-4370 direct
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February 27, 2017

Christina Drouet, P.E.
Deputy Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Ms. Drouet:

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the actions recently proposed by the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission's (ONCC) Ad Hoc Fly Quiet Committee (AHFQC) at their February 22, 2017 meeting. As you are aware, at the request of the ONCC, the Chicago Department of Aviation completed an extensive, 6-month test of a nighttime fly quiet rotation plan in December 2016 that was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The results of this test were published and discussed at the last two AHFQC meetings with the following key points:

1. Survey results indicated approximately half of the respondents wanted the rotation to continue after the test and half did not – we believe this was **highly inconclusive that any value would be achieved by continuing the rotation plan** since an equal number of residents would be harmed by the rotation plan as would be helped (no net gain), and worse, many of those being negatively affected are **not eligible for sound proofing** because they fall outside the qualifying noise contour of 65 dB.
2. In its February 6, 2017 letter to Aaron Frame, the Federal Aviation Administration submitted numerous safety concerns about the rotation plan and included the O'Hare Air Traffic Control Tower Local Safety Council comment regarding the benefit and need for a long runway to be available; it needs to be restated that airport safety is not an absolute factor where operations can be judged as safe or not safe as several of the ONCC and AHFQC members have espoused during their meetings, but rather safety is evaluated on a continuum where procedures and actions are judged as more safe or less safe – we believe **the rotation plan is less safe** with a primary FAA/ATC factor being the limitation on the use of the longer, safer runways.
3. The planned decommissioning of Runways 15/33 in 2018 present a major challenge to the Fly Quiet Program – we believe this action will make the rotation plan moot as there will no longer be the ability to rotate nighttime arrivals and departures between east-west runways and diagonal runways.

In direct violation of their mission, the AHFQC voted to recommend a fly quiet rotation plan that was **not complete** nor presented at the February 22nd meeting. This is one of many indications that the AHFQC and ONCC are heavily biased toward running a Fly Quiet Program, regardless of the data or legal procedures they are charged to uphold. I am also concerned that the AHFQC is recommending steps that violate the intent of NEPA by asking for another rotation plan test less than three months after the conclusion of an exhaustive test. NEPA, as amended, requires federal agencies to analyze their actions in

a decision-making process that is open to public review and where responsible officials take a hard look at and disclose the potential environmental effects of their actions. Compliance with NEPA is required of all federal actions including adoption of official policy, adoption of formal plans, adoption of programs, and approval of specific projects. There are major runway changes planned for O'Hare within the next few years, and the next step by the ONCC should be to focus on a full NEPA evaluation incorporating these changes. To do otherwise gives the appearance that the ONCC is trying avoid a more comprehensive NEPA review and run the Fly Quiet Program for another year without a full NEPA analysis. Public trust would be severely eroded by plans to conduct another test that is not needed, and which by all appearances, is a disingenuous attempt to keep the fly quiet rotation plan going for another 6 months, or as the Bensonville AHFQC member stated "we just need to get this going again as soon as possible to give my residents relief."

In conclusion, I am adamantly opposed to authorization of a second, 6-month Fly Quiet Runway Rotation Test at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Please keep our offices informed of decisions relating to this issue, and contact Don Owen, Interim Village Manager at (847) 904-4478 or downen@glenview.il.us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Patterson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

James R. Patterson, Jr.
Village President

CC: Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky