O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION

INFO ONLY: AGL

cc: AGL-600

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OMP
KM

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May 16, 2011

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OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
AGL-1

Mr. Barry Cooper
Federal Aviation Administration
Great Lakes Region
Office of the Division Manager, AGL-600
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Mr. Cooper:

As you are aware, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) is charged with oversight of the School Sound Insulation Program and the Residential Sound Insulation Program. This oversight is established in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that supported the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approval of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP).

At a recent meeting of ONCC's Technical Committee, concerns were expressed about the extended length of the interim impacts will have on our residents and schools. With the proposed changes to the OMP construction schedule and the changes to the phasing plan, we are requesting that the FAA give particular attention to the interim impacted areas experiencing aircraft noise above 65 DNL until OMP is completed.

It is our understanding that the FAA is currently evaluating the information included in the agreement between the City of Chicago and the airlines and that the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) will be submitting a detailed construction schedule for the timeframe between the opening of Runway 10R/28L and full OMP build-out. Based on that timeframe and schedule, the FAA will review and give guidance on the type and scope of environmental analysis needed to proceed.

Please recall that the residential sound insulation program for those currently experiencing noise above 65 DNL was suspended with the 2005 approval of the OMP and resources were shifted to those areas that would be impacted in the future. We understand the FAA's practice of not sound insulating homes that will eventually have lessened impacts. However, with a fifteen year duration from project approval to build-out, coupled with the significant impacts aircraft noise generates, it seems that this decision should be re-visited.

ONCC looks forward to participating constructively in the OMP phasing changes and construction timetable review process.

Sincerely,

Arlene J. Mulder

Arlene J. Mulder
Chairperson, O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission
Mayor, Village of Arlington Heights, Illinois

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