



Rochelle Municipal Airport

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11/19/12

Mr. Cooper,

My name is Mark Delhotal, and I am the Airport Manager for the Rochelle Municipal Airport. It has been brought to my attention that the FAA is restructuring arrival and departure routes into and out of O'Hare. These proposed routes seem come dangerously close to the Rochelle Municipal Airport. The purpose of the letter is to request that the arrival and departure routes remain clear of an 8 NM radius of Rochelle the extends from the Surface to 17,999 feet MSL.

A brief explanation of the request is that in 2011, the Chicagoland Skydiving Center relocated to Rochelle and made a nearly 2 million dollar investment in the Rochelle Municipal Airport by building a state-of-the-art facility and first-class restaurant.

This one business has brought more revenue to the airport than all our other incomes combined, and draws 50 to 60 thousand people to Rochelle each year. The Chicagoland Skydiving Center has turned an airport that employed one full-time person and one part-time staff member into a location that employs nearly 70 people. The addition of this business has made not only the Rochelle Airport, but the City of Rochelle, a tourist destination. I have witnessed an increase in air traffic as people fly in to Rochelle to dine. Once people are on site, they are using our full service Avionics Repair Station and purchasing fuel and other aviation-related goods.

By allowing these routes to pass close to the Rochelle Municipal Airport, we are endangering those who are enjoying the extreme sport of skydiving as well as the passengers on the commercial airliners. Please send information and diagrams of the proposed arrival I believe to be the TRIDE arrival and departures that would be affecting the airspace around Rochelle.

As a former Airline Captain and current Airport Manager, I see both sides and understand the rerouting, but know that a single degree of offset on an arrival and departure route will allow aircraft to bypass Rochelle (which is located 53 miles west of O'Hare) with minimal impact on efficiency in the sky. I appreciate your attention in this matter and can be reached at mdelhotal@rochelleil.us or by phone at 815-561-5081.

Respectfully,

Mark D. Delhotal
Airport Manager, Rochelle Municipal Airport