DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
111 NORTH CANAL STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Technical Services Division
Regulatory Branch
200301000

SEP 23 2005

16 SEP 2005

SUBJECT: Response to Notice of Availability of the O'Hare Modernization Final Environmental Impact Statement, Final Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation, and Final General Conformity for Development of O'Hare Modernization Program Located at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Cook and DuPage Counties, Illinois

Michael MacMullen
Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airport's District Office
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

This letter is to provide comment on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the above-referenced project. As a cooperating agency in the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the FEIS for the project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has agreed to adopt and incorporate the FEIS into our decision-making process with respect to key issues such as the 404 (b)(1) Guidelines, public interest factors, site constraints, etc. This office concurs that there are no less damaging alternatives to construct the project, and that the proposed alternative site configurations will directly impact a majority of the on-site waterways and wetlands.

In addition, this office has worked in cooperation with other permitting agencies such as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) in the review of the DEIS and the FEIS. This coordination has facilitated early consideration of key issues and an understanding of the proposed actions and associated environmental impacts.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Chernich of the Regulatory Branch, telephone number (312) 846-5531.

Sincerely,

Mitchell A. Isoe
Chief
Regulatory Branch

Copies Furnished:

O'Hare Modernization Program, Executive Director (R. Andolino)
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Yurdin)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Schanzle)
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (Haacker)