



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

**Detroit Airports District Office
11677 South Wayne Road
Suite 107
Romulus, MI 48174**

December 7, 2004

Dennis S. Hennen
WOOSE Secretary
198 Caren Ave.
Worthington, OH 43085

Dear Mr. Hennen:

Ohio State University (OSU) Airport, Columbus, Ohio
Proposed Airport Expansion

Ms. Jeri Alles has asked me to respond to your electronic mail dated November 18, 2004, providing an article from your website and requesting that OSU conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the proposed development.

It is the responsibility of the local airport sponsor to determine what role the airport will take in the national system. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not require an airport to increase the runway length to accommodate larger aircraft. FAA ensures that proposed development is safe, efficient, and follows FAA design standards. The airport sponsor must balance the needs of interstate commerce and impacts on the local airport environs.

Environmental approval by the FAA is required before the start of any proposed airport development. The FAA ensures the environmental process follows the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Our guidance states that normally only projects involving a new airport location or new runways capable of handling air carrier aircraft require an EIS. Development projects such as runway extensions typically start with an environmental assessment (EA) so the FAA can determine if the project significantly affects the environment.

Based on this guidance, OSU is conducting an EA. The EA will clearly describe the purpose of and need for the project, prudent alternatives, and environmental impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding communities. Typically one of the environmental impacts that affects surrounding communities is noise. Current and future noise impacts will be addressed in accordance with FAA guidance. The process relies on the airport sponsor finding solutions based on participation by all interested parties.

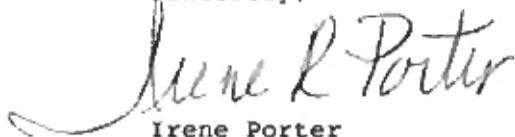
The FAA has just completed its review of the first draft of this document. We provided comments to OSU and their consultant to ensure the document conforms to our requirements. OSU is revising the document to reflect FAA's comments and those received at the recent public meeting. Several other Federal, State, and local agencies will also review and comment on the EA. OSU will conduct a public hearing to gather public comments about the proposed development. The final EA will address these comments, including any further comments provided by the public

The FAA will carefully review the final EA, and all agency and public comments. The FAA will then decide whether to issue a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or proceed with an EIS for the project.

We are sending your comments to the airport sponsor and the consultant preparing the environmental assessment. All environmental comments will be addressed within this document.

If you have other questions or concerns please feel free to contact Mr. Ernest Gubry of this office at (734) 229-2905.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene R. Porter". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Irene Porter
Manager, Detroit Airports District Office

cc: w/enclosure (original electronic mail):
OSU Airport, Doug Hammon
DLZ, Wes Butch