

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For Proposed Development at:



**The Ohio State University Airport
Columbus, Ohio**

September, 2004
Internal Review Draft

Prepared By:
DLZ Ohio, Inc.
6121 Huntley Road
Columbus, Ohio

This Environmental Assessment becomes a Federal document when evaluated and signed by the responsible FAA official.

Responsible Federal Aviation Administration Official Date

PREFACE

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires that Federal agencies identify and consider the social, economic, and environmental impacts of proposed actions as part of their decision making processes. NEPA also requires that Federal agencies provide information to the public and regulatory agencies and consider their input when reaching decisions. This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to satisfy these requirements, as well as other applicable State and Federal requirements

Proposed Federal actions are classified into three different categories under NEPA. Actions that would “significantly” affect the environment require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Actions that do not have a significant effect on the environment are typically called “categorical exclusions” and do not require preparation of an EA or EIS. When the significance of impacts is not clear, these actions require preparation of an EA to determine whether an EIS or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is the appropriate type of documentation. The proposed actions that require the preparation of this EA for improvements to The Ohio State University Airport (OSUA) include: an extended primary runway, improved lighting, new navigational aids, new taxiways, additional hangars, and closure of one crosswind runway.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through Order 5050.4A, “The Airport Environmental Handbook” (USDOT 1985). The EA provides a description of:

- The purpose of and need for the project
- Alternatives considered
- Potential environmental consequences
- Measures to mitigate possible adverse environmental impacts

The intent of the EA is to serve as a decision making tool to be used by local, State, and Federal officials in evaluating the proposed development at OSUA.

This document has been distributed to local, State, and federal officials and regulatory agencies for evaluation of the proposed development plans and is available for public review and comment.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SECTION 1 – PURPOSE AND NEED.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE.....	1
1.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	1
1.3 PROJECT NEEDS.....	4
1.4 REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION.....	5
1.5 TIME FRAME FOR ACTION.....	6
1.6 PROPOSED ACTION.....	6
SECTION 2 - DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES.....	7
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	7
2.1 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.....	7
2.2 ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED.....	9
SECTION 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.....	11
3.0 INTRODUCTION.....	11
3.1 LOCATION AND EXISTING ALP.....	11
3.2 LAND USES AND ZONING.....	11
3.3 POPULATION, INDUSTRIAL, AND COMMERCIAL.....	11
CHARACTERISTICS.....	11
3.4 CONTEMPLATED FUTURE ACTIONS.....	12
SECTION 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	13
4.0 INTRODUCTION.....	13
4.1 NOISE ANALYSIS.....	13
4.2 COMPATIBLE LAND USE.....	18
4.3 SOCIAL IMPACTS.....	20
4.4 INDUCED SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS.....	21
4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.....	21
4.6 AIR QUALITY.....	22
4.7 WATER QUALITY.....	23
4.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	25
4.9 SECTION 4(F) RESOURCES.....	26
4.10 BIOTIC COMMUNITIES.....	26
4.11 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.....	27
4.12 WETLAND RESOURCES.....	27
4.13 FLOODPLAINS.....	28
4.14 FARMLAND.....	28
4.15 ENERGY SUPPLY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.....	29
4.16 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.....	29
4.17 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS.....	29
4.18 CONSISTENCY WITH LAND USE PLANS.....	30
4.19 CONSISTENCY WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS.....	30
4.20 MITIGATION MEASURES.....	30
4.21 DEGREE OF CONTROVERSY.....	30
SECTION 5 - LIST OF PREPARERS.....	32
SECTION 6 - AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	33
6.0 AGENCY COORDINATION.....	33
6.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	33
SECTION 7 - REFERENCES.....	34



LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. AIRPORT REFERENCE CODE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM..... 3
 TABLE 2. EXISTING AND FORECAST NUMBER OF BASED AIRCRAFT 3
 TABLE 3. ANNUAL FORECAST OF OPERATIONS BY SCENARIO..... 4
 TABLE 4. RECOMMENDED RUNWAY LENGTHS. 5
 TABLE 5. EXISTING RUNWAYS, TAXIWAYS AND SAFETY AREAS AT OSUA..... 8
 TABLE 6. ALTERNATIVE AIRPORT SITES LOCATED WITHIN 20 MILES OF OSUA. 10
 TABLE 7. DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE COLUMBUS MSA. 11
 TABLE 8. DNL COMPARISON OF EXISTING CONDITIONS VS. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE..... 17
 TABLE 9. LOW INCOME AND MINORITY POPULATION INFORMATION. 22
 TABLE 10. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION..... 31
 TABLE 11. LIST OF PREPARERS. 32

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION MAP
 FIGURE 2. EXISTING AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN
 FIGURE 3. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
 FIGURE 4. EXISTING LAND USE
 FIGURE 5. EXISTING CONDITIONS (2003) NOISE CONTOURS
 FIGURE 6. NO BUILD (2008) NOISE CONTOURS
 FIGURE 7. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (2008) NOISE CONTOURS
 FIGURE 8. FULL BUILD (2023) NOISE CONTOURS
 FIGURE 9. COMMON SOUND LEVELS

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A 2004 FORECAST OF OPERATIONS
 APPENDIX B NOISE TECHNICAL REPORT
 APPENDIX C AGENCY COORDINATION LETTERS
 APPENDIX D QHEI/HHEI STREAM EVALUATIONS



List of Abbreviations

ALP	Airport Layout Plan
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARC	Airport Reference Code
BRL	Building Restriction Line
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
DNL	Yearly Average Day-Night Sound Level
EA	Environmental Assessment
ERD	Emergency Response Division
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FBO	Fixed Base Operator
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GPS	Global Positioning System
ILS	Instrument Landing System
INM	FAA's Integrated Noise Model, Version 6.0
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MIRL	Medium Intensity Runway Lighting
MITL	Medium Intensity Taxiway Lighting
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
ODNR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
ODA	Ohio Department of Agriculture
ODOT-OA	Ohio Department of Transportation – Office of Aviation
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OFA	Object Free Area
OSHPO	Ohio State Historic Preservation Office
OSUA	The Ohio State University Airport
P.A.	Public Act
PAPI	Precision Approach Path Indicator Lighting
REIL	Runway End Identifier Lights
RPZ	Runway Protection Zone
RSA	Runway Safety Area
RWY	Runway
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VASIS	Visual Approach Slope Indicator System

