

CHAPTER 3

Study Coordination

A. Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee

A committee has been established for the Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) that serves the purpose of relating citizen concerns about airport and aircraft operations. This committee is called the Community Relations Committee (CRC). The CRC is comprised of individuals representing the communities surrounding HXD. The CRC is an adjunct committee established to advise the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board on matters related to aircraft noise and airport issues on behalf of the communities surrounding the Airport. The CRC meets on a bi-monthly basis with all meetings open to the public. A separate CRC has also been established for the Beaufort County Airport.

B. Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board

The Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board maintains the responsibility for oversight of two airports in Beaufort County - Beaufort County Airport and Hilton Head Island Airport. The eleven-member Board meets on a monthly basis alternating among the two airports. All meetings are open to the public.

C. Public Workshops and Meetings

Kick - off Public Workshop - May 5, 2005

The first public information workshop for the FAR Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study for HXD was held on May 5, 2005 to introduce the study to the residents, explain what the Study entails, and invite comments and feedback from the community.

The public information workshop was held at the Hilton Head Town Hall. Airport representatives and the consultants were on hand to answer questions and speak directly with the residents on a one-on-one basis. Nine boards were displayed for public review and informational brochures were provided for citizens to take home. The brochures also provided a contact phone number and email address for citizens to provide further input into the study.

The workshop was attended by an estimated 60 citizens of whom 42 signed in. Comment sheets were provided to attendees and could be turned in during the meeting or mailed in. Ten (10) comment sheets were received. The most frequent comments included:

Concerns about the effectiveness of the study - many residents felt that nothing can be done to alleviate noise from the airport;

Concerns about the forum in which the meeting was held - many attendees felt that in the future there should be a formal presentation followed by a question and answer period;

Some residents felt that in addition to using the INM model, noise meters should be set up to measure noise at residential areas affected by aircraft noise.

The materials prepared for the workshop are included in **Appendix B**.

AAB/CRC Meeting - September 15, 2005

A presentation was made immediately following the September 15, 2005 Aviation Advisory Board (AAB) meeting. The meeting took place in the airport terminal (the airport was closed at this time due to runway rehabilitation). Members of the CRC were invited to attend the presentation. The presentation included the draft existing and future no-action (no procedural changes) noise contours and data used in preparing the contours. This information included the draft existing and projected aircraft operations and fleet mix. The presentation also included an explanation of the DNL metric, FAA compatible land use guidance and the next steps in the study process. The materials prepared for the meeting are included in **Appendix C**.

Town of Hilton Head Island Town Council Meeting - December 6, 2005

A presentation was made before the Town of Hilton Head Town Council on December 6, 2005. The purpose of the briefing was to discuss the study with town officials. While the airport is owned and operated by Beaufort County, it is within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Hilton Head Island. The presentation included the progress of the study to date, the draft existing and future no-action contours, single event aircraft departure sound levels, and the next steps in the study process. The presentation included the material that was prepared for the second public workshop to be held the following night.

Second Public Workshop - December 7, 2005

A second public information workshop was held on December 7, 2005 at the Hilton Head Island Town Hall. Airport representatives and the consultants were on hand to answer questions and speak directly with the residents on a one-on-one basis. Twelve boards were displayed for public review and informational brochures and comment forms were provided for the attendees. The workshop was attended by an estimated 50 citizens of

whom 36 signed in. As was requested by citizens at the first meeting, a presentation followed by an open question and answer session was conducted during the workshop. The materials prepared for the workshop, a summary of the presentation and the summary of comments during the open question and answer period are included in **Appendix D**.

Based on comments from the public, the following would be provided during the development of the study.

- Two days of noise monitoring would be conducted in areas around the airport. The monitoring would take place during the week of the Heritage Classic Golf tournament when the opportunity exists for more aircraft activity. The monitoring would occur in the native island community and well as the plantation communities and at the Saint James Church. The Community relations committee will assist in the location of the monitoring sites.
- Since there were a number of questions at the meetings related to aircraft arrival and departure paths, while conducting the monitoring, consultant staff will observe flight corridors used to compare with the published noise abatement procedures.
- A graphic showing representative single event noise levels over the existing aerial photography will be provided.
- Noise complaint statistics (by aircraft type, if possible) be included in the study.
- The NEM report and NCP report will be made available on the Airport's web site.
- At the request of the public, if possible, the public hearing will be held at the Hilton Head library.
- At the request of the public, an explanation will be included in the report on how aircraft are directed into and out of the Airport by Tower and TRACON personnel. The intent here is to identify which FAA location is responsible for specific segments of the flight.
- It will be recognized that the airport was closed during some of 2005 and the existing average day of operations will reflect this situation.
- An explanation will be provided in the text as to the ability or lack of ability to institute aircraft flight restrictions. A number of people wanted to restrict the use of the airport during nighttime hours or during specific times of the day (Sunday morning church services for example). FAA requirements in this regard will be incorporated into the document.

- Ground engine run-up control considerations will be included in the study.
- The process involved for securing FAA noise abatement funds and the areas of eligibility will be included in the report.
- The noise contours shown in the report will be extended to the 55 DNL. When this is done, the FAA requires that a note be included in the report that the 65 DNL is the limit of noise that the FAA considers to be significant.
- The consideration of aircraft attaining 1,000 feet in altitude prior to turning from runway heading will be evaluated in the study.

CRC Meeting March 13, 2006

A presentation was made at the March 13, 2006 CRC meeting related to the parameters associated with the noise monitoring efforts. The presentation also included preliminary sites recommended for the monitoring effort. The meeting resulted in direction from the CRC about the preferred dates and final sites locations for the monitoring effort. The four final sites located throughout the island were chosen through input from the CRC members and public in attendance at the meeting.

CRC Meeting May 17, 2006

The data acquired during the noise monitoring effort was presented at the May 17, 2006 CRC meeting. Summary sheets as well as copies of the actual noise monitoring data sheets were provided to the CRC members and the public in attendance at the meeting. A brief presentation included a discussion of the dates, times, locations, weather conditions, aircraft activity, and other observations noted during the monitoring effort. Additionally, a brief introduction related to potential noise mitigation measures was also discussed with the committee.

Public Hearing October 24, 2006

A Public Hearing was held on October 24, 2006 at the Hilton Head Island Public Library. The hearing was attended by an estimated 60 citizens. Thirteen boards were displayed for public review that identified the initial recommendations of the study and a formal presentation was given. An opportunity for citizens to comment followed the presentation. The transcript of the hearing (and responses to comments and questions) is included in **Appendix E**.

D. FAR Part 150 Study Hotline / Study E-mail

A toll-free telephone number was set up at the beginning of the study to allow interested parties the opportunity to comment or ask questions during the course of the study (1-800-572-0554). A study e-mail address was also provided to allow for public comment. The e-mail address is noise_study@esassoc.com.

Questions and comments regarding the study are included in **Appendix E**.

E. Noise Complaint Hotline

A noise complaint hotline has also been established at the Airport to receive calls from citizens regarding aircraft noise (1-843-681-6744). The location of the callers is plotted on a noise complaint map and responses to the calls are handled by airport staff. The noise complaint data will be a key component of the NCP in addressing noise mitigation opportunities for those areas surrounding HXD.