



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

Executive Director

SEP 10 2019

Great Lakes Region
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

SEP 06 2019

Dianne Miller
NOC Community Co-Chair
Noise Oversight Committee (NOC)
Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP)
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Dear Ms. Miller,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the impact of non-intersecting Converging Runway Operations (CRO) at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

As you are aware, non-intersecting Converging Runway Operations were implemented at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in an effort to reduce conflicts, reduce risk and increase safety. Various iterations of these operations have been implemented on a "test" basis since 2014. The FAA is now ready to propose a steady state of operations and is in the process of conducting an environmental review of those operations consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

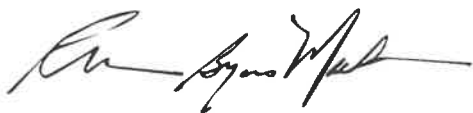
A draft noise report to analyze the Day-Night Average Sound Levels (DNL) prior to and following the implementation of the Converging Runway standards was completed in mid-August. We are currently reviewing the report. However, assuming no significant changes in the underlying analysis, we have tentatively determined that the appropriate level of environmental analysis for the changes in operations at the airport attributable to CRO is a documented Categorical Exclusion (CATEX). The documented CATEX will contain the final noise analysis and will provide the background information of the project, what we tested while determining the best solution to CRO, and what that long-term solution is.

The CATEX documentation will be conducted in accordance with NEPA as well as FAA's environmental regulations. Some of the factors you have requested we assess are beyond the scope of an environmental assessment of CRO impacts. Accordingly, we will not address those issues in the CATEX documentation.

Once we have a Draft CATEX document, we will host one or more community outreach meetings in coordination with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to ensure inclusion and transparency. We are still developing the format of those meetings but they would likely provide the public with informational displays with subject matter experts available to discuss those topics further. Handouts showing the general track data pre/post implementation may also be available. We will keep you apprised as developments occur.

I trust this information is helpful. If you or your staff require further assistance, please contact me at (847) 294-7294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca B. MacPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rebecca B. MacPherson
Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region

cc: Brian Ryks, MAC CEO/Executive Director