

## **Appendix B      CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR LIMITED TESTING**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DECLARATION**

Seattle TRACON

Greener Skies Over Seattle

Description of Action:

FAA proposes to implement Required Navigation Performance (RNP), Area Navigational Visual Flight Procedures (RVFP) and Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR) approach procedures at KSEA. The introduction of RNP technology will improve aircraft operational efficiency and reduce operating costs by providing precise paths in combination with optimized profile descents (OPD) and reduced fuel burn. These procedures are expected to result in a reduction in noise and emissions and an overall enhancement of safety.

Procedure is being undertaken on test-basis with the aim of

- Collecting, sharing and experiencing the data for a mutually agreeable time
- Evaluating flight data, validating procedures, and cataloging the issues; identifying and implementing changes/improvements for pilots and ATC; documenting concurrent operations for KSEA/KBFI
- Developing implementation plan for Phase 2 actions

Declaration of Exclusion:

The FAA has reviewed the above referenced proposed action and it has been determined, by the undersigned, to be categorically excluded from further environmental documentation according to Order 1050.1E, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures". The implementation of this action will not result in any extraordinary circumstances in accordance with Order 1050.1E.

The applicable categorical exclusions are: Order 1050.1E, paragraph 311n,

Tests of air traffic departure or arrival procedures conducted under 3,000 feet above ground level (AGL), provided that: (1) the duration of test does not exceed six months; (2) the test requested by an airport or launch operator in response to mitigating noise concerns, or initiated by the FAA for safety or efficiency of proposed procedures; and (3) test data collected will be used to assess operational and noise impacts of the test. (ATO)

and 311o,

Procedural actions requested by users on a test basis to determine the effectiveness of new technology and measurement of possible impacts on the environment.(ATO)

Recommended by:

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Jamie Erdt  
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Signature: *Kevin Lanier* Date: 2/21/12  
Kevin Lanier  
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Service Area Environmental Specialist Review/Concurrence

Signature: *Augustin Moses* Date: 2/21/2012  
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Service Area Director Review/Concurrence, if necessary

Signature: *Steve Osterdahl* Date: 2/21/2012  
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Service Area Director Review/Concurrence, if necessary

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