

Kenny, Ann

From: Hart, Curt
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2000 8:18 AM
To: Ehlers, Paula; Hellwig, Raymond; Kenny, Ann; Summerhays, Jeannie; Hutchison, Sheryl; White, Gordon; Luster, Tom; Marchioro, Joan (ATG)
Subject: Discussion Draft: Final Talking Points re: staff changes for 401 review

Folks,

I've incorporated all your comments and would like to send out this set of final draft talking points regarding staff changes for the 401 review for the third runway.

I expect opponent groups and some media to make their calls in the next few days, perhaps even today.

Please refer any media calls to me.....thanks!!!



Face Changes 1.doc

Curt Hart
Public Information Manager
Northwest Regional Office
(425) 649-7009

Draft messages regarding some staff shifting on the Third Runway Project:

KEY MESSAGES

Ecology is responsible for reviewing myriad environmental projects and issues across the state – and each of them can be incredibly time-consuming.

The Sea-Tac Third Runway project is just one of hundreds of projects that Ecology is currently evaluating to make sure it complies with state environmental protection laws.

We were not expecting that the 3rd Runway project would still be consuming so much of our time at this point. Some of the staff who have been evaluating certain aspects of the runway project have expertise that is needed on other projects.

We also want to take this opportunity to finish shifting work on the 3rd Runway out of our Olympia Headquarters and into our regional office in King County.

We were waiting until new employees in the local office were trained and ready to take it on. Now they are ready, and we are moving ahead to complete the shift.

We consider this a good business practice, and a good workforce-management practice.

While faces may change, Ecology's overall responsibility to make sure that all proposals are environmentally sound does not.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

Our senior wetlands specialist is needed to review other proposals. The Port's wetland protection/mitigation plan is nearly complete, and we need to have this employee work on other projects. This person will continue to serve in an advisory capacity regarding the Port's proposal.

We are in the process of hiring an outside consultant to finish the wetland plan review. Although the Port will pay the consultant, Ecology will be responsible for reviewing that work.

In addition, we will shift the review of the Port's water quality (401) permit to another 401 specialist at Ecology's regional office in Bellevue, which is geographically closer to Sea-Tac airport.

For the past two years, Ecology has been making this transition from having 401 permits being reviewed at headquarters (Olympia) to our regional offices (Bellevue, Yakima, Spokane, Lacey). While the present reviewer is our senior policy person in Olympia regarding 401 permit issues — he has been unable to conduct other important policy work due to time spent on the runway proposal.

The new reviewer will continue to make sure that the Port's proposal to build the Third Runway meets state environmental protection laws.

Although the Port is on the right path conceptually, our review team is still making sure that the Third Runway project:

- Adequately addresses stormwater management
- Adequately addresses wetland mitigation and protection
- Adequately addresses in-stream flow augmentation
- Adequately addresses clean fill criteria.

Responses to potential questions:

No one is being punished as a result of any personnel changes.

Although the Port will be paying a consultant to review their wetland mitigation/protection plan, we are responsible for hiring that consultant and we will oversee their consultant's work.

The consultant **DOES NOT** report to the Port.

These decisions are **ECOLOGY'S** decisions. We are not under any outside pressure to make them.

These decisions make sense.

Ecology continues its role as the state's environmental regulatory agency. We are neither a proponent nor an opponent of the Third Runway Project.