



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

**Northwest Mountain Region  
Colorado, Idaho, Montana  
Oregon, Utah, Washington,  
Wyoming**

**1601 Lind Avenue, S. W.  
Renton, Washington 98055-4056**

**August 9, 2001**

**Colonel Ralph Graves, P.E.  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Seattle District Office  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3766**

**Dear Colonel Graves:**

**This is our final follow-up letter to you providing information addressing the issues raised in our May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and your April 30<sup>th</sup> Memorandum for Record. We apologize for the delay in completing our review and getting our responses to you; however, we believe that the issues needed to be thoroughly addressed given the significance of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport's third runway project to the region. In the course of our review we decided we should validate the data and analyses contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), through the preparation of a written environmental re-evaluation. This process has now been completed in accordance with our prescribed procedures. As a result, we have concluded that the project continues to conform to the analysis presented in the FEIS/SEIS and the Record of Decision issued on July 3, 1997.**

**There are actually two written reevaluations, as well as a new Record of Decision. The first re-evaluation considers changes in forecast aviation activity levels and changes to the master plan update projects. It assesses the environmental consequences of the changes on noise and land use, air quality, and surface traffic. It identifies no significant change in the impacts reported previously. The second re-evaluation reviews the new biological information that has arisen in the last four years, including information on wetlands, endangered and candidate species, commercially managed fish species, and migratory birds. It also determines there is no significant changed environmental impact.**

**Your Memorandum for Record asks specifically about potential changed air quality impacts. In addition to the review described in the written re-evaluation, we have obtained a commitment from the Port of Seattle to annually demonstrate compliance with**

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de-minimis threshold levels. This commitment will be a condition of grants for the master plan update improvements.

As a result of these written re-evaluations, we have concluded that the recent MPU project modifications and the new information concerning environmental impacts do not warrant preparation of a new SEIS. The enclosed Record of Decision, to which the re-evaluations are appended, describes the analyses and conclusions. We hope this information addresses your questions and concerns with respect to these issues. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Lowell H. Johnson  
Manager, Airports Division  
Northwest Mountain Region

cc:  
Muffy Walker, COE Regulatory Branch  
bcc:  
ANM-610  
SEA-ADO

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