

WARNING:
“Flight Plan”
could be
hazardous to
your health.



RCMA
Regional Commission
on Airport Affairs

801 S.W. 174th St.
Normandy Park, WA 98166



*“Sea-Tac Airport could be
causing the slow death of the
residents who surround it.*

Dr. Lee Sanders, a pathologist at

Highline Community Hospital,

said expansion of Sea-Tac would

bring an ‘irreparable health

disaster’ to the Highline community.”

- Federal Way News
October 21, 1992

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MEDICAL EXPERTS AGREE: URBAN AIRPORTS POSE SEVERE HEALTH RISKS

- Scientists, medical researchers and physicians acknowledge the health risks posed by unchecked expansion of urban airports
- Numerous national and international studies reviewed by leading doctors at Highline Community Hospital link increased rates of birth defects, mental illness and cardiovascular disease to the health hazards of Sea-Tac Airport
- According to their report, "The weight of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the

conclusion that airports are harmful to the health of people in surrounding communities ... citizens around Sea-Tac are more likely to have airport-related health problems..."

Airport called a health disaster

By Susan Evans
STAFF WRITER

Sea-Tac Airport could be causing the slow death of the residents who surround it. It's a charge that Highline Community Hospital doctors were to present to the Port Seattle Commission last night at a downtown-Seattle hearing on the port-proposed multiple airport system which includes construction of a third runway at Sea-Tac. Sanders, a pathologist at Highline Hospital,



THE PORT'S "FLIGHT PLAN" MEANS MORE POLLUTION

- Addition of a third runway at Sea-Tac means staggering increases in air pollution across the Puget Sound region — a crowded urban area where some pollutants levels already rate a "nonattainment" danger level from the EPA
- Department of Ecology studies have documented the need for systematic investigation of carbon monoxide, TSP, lead, nickel, vinyl chloride, asbestos, sulphur oxide and benzene levels in the communities surrounding the airport
- Sea-Tac already produces 5% of all air pollution in our region; the Port's expansion plan increases the health problems for citizens in Puget Sound

NEW RUNWAYS: BIRTH DEFECTS, MENTAL ILLNESS & HEART DISEASE

- According to some researchers, increasing air traffic means a greater incidence of health problems
- "Infants born to mothers under the flight path have lower birth weights and higher likelihood of prematurity," medical experts



report. "One study has found an increase in the rates of neural tube defects (spina bifida and anencephaly) ... Airport communities are unsafe for pregnant women and their children"

- A review done by local physicians cites studies reporting "increased risks of heart disease and stroke," along with "marked increase in use of tranquilizers and sedatives ... an increase in the rate of alcoholism and ... an increased number of psychiatric admissions from noise-impacted neighborhoods around jet airports"
- The medical study on the Port's "Flight Plan" concludes: "When these impacts and other community-borne costs are thoroughly considered along with the actual construction costs, expansion of Sea-Tac Airport probably will not be financially feasible or ethically reasonable"

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL RCAA HEADQUARTERS**

206-248-7603

SOURCES: Dr. D. Dennis Hansen and Dr. Lee A. Sanders, *The Adverse Health Impacts of Airport Expansion with Particular Reference to Sea-Tac International Airport*. Federal Way News.