



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410

AUG 26 1975

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
United States Senator
United States Court House
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Senator Jackson:

This is in further reply to your inquiry of July 30, 1975, relative to the letter of Mrs. Virginia E. Dana, concerning the eligibility of existing properties for FHA mortgage insurance in areas where noise boundaries have been established by the local community.

The basic policy of the Department is to administer our programs to improve living conditions; starting with the view that we should not endorse or support the creation of undesirable living environments either directly or by implication. Noise Assessment Guidelines were developed by Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Inc., under a contract administered by the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. The Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development directed the preparation of Circular 1390.2 for transmittal to our field offices to implement the "Noise Abatement and Control" policy. Paragraph 2, POLICY, of the attached copy of the Circular should provide most of the information Mrs. Dana is seeking.

Departmental policy for existing construction is stated in Paragraph 2 a (3), Existing Construction (including Rehabilitation) of the attached copy of HUD Handbook 1390.2. In applying this policy, FHA does not arbitrarily exclude any area of existing housing due to noise although individual applications may be rejected if noise levels are particularly high and the property is insufficiently sound-proofed.

The opportunity to furnish information on the Department's efforts to provide assistance to State and local governments for the alleviation of community noise pollution is appreciated.

Sincerely,

James A. Morrill
Assistant for Legislative Affairs

Attachments