

compliance with applicable requirements of Part 150, effective May 8, 2003. Further, FAA is reviewing a proposed noise compatibility program for that airport which will be approved or disapproved on or before November 4, 2003. This notice also announces the availability of this program for public review and comment.

Under 49 U.S.C., section 47503 (Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act, hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), an airport operator may submit to the FAA noise exposure maps which meet applicable regulations and which depict noncompatible land uses as of the date of submission of such maps, a description of projected aircraft operations, and the ways in which such operations will affect such maps. The Act requires such maps to be developed in consultation with interested and affected parties in the local community, government agencies, and persons using the airport.

An airport operator who has submitted noise exposure maps that are found by FAA to be in compliance with the requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 150, promulgated pursuant to the Act, may submit a noise compatibility program for FAA approval which sets forth the measures the operator has taken or proposes to take to reduce existing non-compatible uses and prevent the introduction of additional non-compatible uses.

The Greater Rockford Airport Authority submitted to the FAA on April 7, 2003, noise exposure maps, descriptions and other documentation, which were produced during the Greater Rockford Airport's FAR Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, April 2003. It was requested that the FAA review this material as the noise exposure maps, as described in section 47503 of the Act, and that the noise mitigation measures, to be implemented jointly by the airport and surrounding communities, be approved as a noise compatibility program under Section 47504 of the Act.

The FAA has completed its review of the noise exposure maps and related descriptions submitted by the Greater Rockford Airport Authority. The specific documentation determined to constitute the noise exposure maps includes information found in Appendix F, Noise Modeling Methodology as well as the submittal letter, maps and certification found in the beginning of the April 2003 FAR Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study Update for Greater Rockford Airport. The noise exposure maps and certification follow page NCP-6 in the

submission. They are the 2002 Existing Noise Exposure Map and 2008 Noise Compatibility Program Noise Exposure Map. The FAA has determined that these maps for the Greater Rockford Airport are in compliance with applicable requirements. This determination is effective on May 8, 2003. FAA's determination on an airport operator's noise exposure maps is limited to a finding that the maps were developed in accordance with the procedures contained in appendix A of FAR Part 150. Such determination does not constitute approval of the applicant's data, information or plans, or constitute a commitment to approve a noise compatibility program or to fund the implementation of that program.

If questions arise concerning the precise relationship of specific properties to noise exposure contours depicted on a noise exposure map submitted under section 47503 of the Act, it should be noted that the FAA is not involved in any way in determining the relative locations of specific properties with regard to the depicted noise contours, or in interpreting the noise exposure maps to resolve questions concerning, for example, which properties should be covered by the provisions of section 47506 of the Act. These functions are inseparable from the ultimate land use control and planning responsibilities of local government. These local responsibilities are not changed in any way under Part 150 or through FAA's review of noise exposure maps. Therefore, the responsibility for the detail overlaying of noise exposure contours onto the map depicting properties on the surface rests exclusively with the airport operator that submitted those maps, or with those public agencies and planning agencies with which consultation is required under section 47503 of the Act. The FAA has relied on the certification by the airport operator, under section 150.21 of FAR Part 150, that the statutorily required consultation has been accomplished.

The FAA has formally received the noise compatibility program for Greater Rockford Airport, also effective on May 8, 2003. Preliminary review of the submitted material indicates that it conforms to the requirements for the submittal of noise compatibility programs, but that further review will be necessary prior to approval or disapproval of the program. The formal review period, limited by law to a maximum of 180 days, will be completed on or before November 4, 2003.

The FAA's detailed evaluation will be conducted under the provisions of 14

CFR Part 150, section 150.33. The primary considerations in the evaluation process are whether the proposed measures may reduce the level of aviation safety create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, or be reasonably consistent with obtaining the goal of reducing existing noncompatible land uses and preventing the introduction of additional non-compatible land uses.

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed program with specific reference to these factors. All comments, other than those properly addressed to local land use authorities, will be considered by the FAA to the extent practicable. Copies of the noise exposure maps, the FAA's evaluation of the maps, and the proposed noise compatibility program are available for examination at the following locations.

Federal Aviation Administration,  
Chicago Airports District Office,  
Room 320, 2300 East Devon Avenue,  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

Greater Rockford Airport Authority,  
Airport Manager's Office, 60 Airport  
Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61109.

Illinois Department of Transportation,  
Division of Aeronautics, One  
Langhorne Bond Drive, Capital  
Airport, Springfield, Illinois 62707.

Copies of the FAR Part 150 Noise Compatibility Program documents are also available for public review during normal business hours at the following locations:

Rockford City Council Clerk, Rockford  
City Hall, 425 East State Street,  
Rockford, Illinois 61104.

Rockford Public Library, 215 North  
Wyman, Rockford, Illinois 61101.

Winnebago County Courthouse, County  
Clerk's Office, 400 West State Street,  
Rockford, Illinois 61101.

Questions may be directed to the individual named above under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Issued in Chicago, Illinois, on May 8, 2003.

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*Manager, Chicago Airports District Office,  
FAA Great Lakes Region.*

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