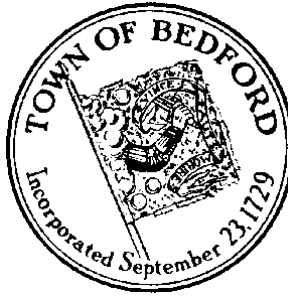


TOWN OF BEDFORD

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Rebecca Tepper, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Attn: MEPA Office
Alexander Strysky, MEPA Analyst for the Project
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston MA 02114
VIA EMAIL: Alexander.strysky@mass.gov

June 13, 2024

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
EEA No. 16654, L.G. Hanscom Field North Airfield Development

Dear Secretary Tepper and Mr. Strysky:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed North Airfield Development at L.G. Hanscom Field in Bedford, EEA No. 16654.

The Bedford Board of Health is in agreement with the Bedford Select Board's comprehensive response to the Proponent's DEIR which outlines their concerns on behalf of Bedford's residents. We write to highlight a significant impact the DEIR does not adequately address, namely, important information about potential health implications for area residents related to air quality including aviation particulate matter as a result of the 37% increase in Hanscom passenger miles noted in the recent Massport 2022 Boston Logan ESPR.

The Bedford Board of Health is concerned that the increase in jet fuel emissions from the proposed increased jet flights and operations already noted and those resulting from the proposed hangar expansion pose new significant negative health risks to residents residing near the airfield and to students in nearby schools. Jet engine emissions, especially those using leaded fuel, produce significant quantities of hazardous air pollutants which are harmful to human health. **The Proponent's DEIR fails to provide an assessment of the potential negative health impacts to residents of the communities and to those who work geographically near the jet field as a result of existing and expanded jet operations.**

Of particular concern is the potential increase in ultrafine particulate matter exposure which is a known factor in the development, exacerbation and progression of respiratory diseases, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and is also implicated in acute and chronic cardiovascular diseases. To determine the baseline levels of ultrafine particles in the air around Hanscom Field, the four contiguous towns around this field and the Hanscom Field Advisory Commission have launched an Air Quality Study led by Tufts University Assistant Professor, Dr. Neelakshi Hudda. The study is expected to be completed this summer, with a report expected in October, and will provide vital information that needs to be considered in addressing the full impact of the proposed expansion of jet operations. The DEIR must also include an assessment of the implications of Dr. Hudda's findings and other current research on jet emissions.

We urge the Proponents to include a substantial accounting of all of the health impacts related to current and potential expansion of jet operations at Hanscom Field as they are essential to a comprehensive evaluation of this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of our concern.

Sincerely,

The Bedford Board of Health

Maureen Richichi, Chair, Bea Brunkhorst, Ann Kiessling, Anita Raj, and Susan Schwartz

CC: Heidi Porter

The Bedford Select Board

Representative Ken Gordon

Senator Mike Barrett