



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

Memphis Airports District Office  
2600 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 2250  
Memphis, TN 38118-2486

Phone: 901-322-8180

August 16, 2016

Ms. Debbie Conrad  
Senior Manager, Sustainability Programs  
Kenton County Airport Board  
PO Box 752000  
Cincinnati, OH 45275

Dear Ms. Conrad:

**RE: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)  
Site 3C Development  
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG)**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Memphis Airports District Office has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above referenced project. Based on our review, the EA supports a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI is enclosed for your records.

To finalize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, please advertise the availability of the FONSI and Final EA in a local newspaper of general circulation. If you have any questions directly related to this environmental review, please contact Aaron Braswell at (901) 322-8192.

Sincerely,

Phillip J Braden  
Manager, Memphis Airports District Office

Enclosure

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
Site 3C Development  
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport  
Hebron, Kentucky**

**I. Introduction/Background**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) announces final agency determinations and approvals for those Federal Actions by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that are necessary to support the proposed developments at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Hebron, Kentucky.

**II. Proposed Federal Action**

The airport sponsor has requested a change to the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the following project:

- Development of a 264,000 square foot commercial structure; vehicular access, circulation areas, and parking lot on a 25 acre site known as 3C, located east of the airport.
- Site preparation including terrain grading, construction of utilities, and creation of stormwater detention facilities.

**III. Purpose and Need**

The airport sponsor has defined the purpose and need for implementing the proposed action as being necessary to enhance airport revenue by developing airport land that is currently under-utilized, and in a location that is compatible with FAA airspace and design standards.

**IV. Alternatives**

Federal guidelines concerning the environmental review process require that all reasonable and practicable alternatives that might accomplish the objectives of a proposed project be identified and evaluated. Such an examination ensures that alternatives are not prematurely dismissed and may lead to consideration of alternatives that fulfill the project's purpose and need as well as enhance environmental quality or have a less detrimental effect. The alternatives evaluated for this Environmental Assessment (EA) are listed below.

1. No build alternative.
2. Preferred alternative, described above in Section II.

**V. Environmental Impacts**

The EA analyzed all environmental categories based on FAA Order 5050.4B, "*National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Instructions for Airport Projects*" (NEPA).

Those Categories impacted by the Sponsor's preferred alternative are discussed below. Mitigation measures for the environmental impacts are discussed in Section VI.

#### **V A. Air Quality**

The proposed action will create additional air emissions, both through construction and the operation of the new facilities. As discussed in Section 5.1 of the EA, and based on air quality modelling, significant impacts are not anticipated.

#### **V B. Biological Resources**

The proposed action will disturb 25 acres of land. Consequently, several types of habitat will be permanently removed including open field, two wooded lots, wetlands, and streams. 7.94 acres of suitable summertime habitat for Indiana bats and northern long eared bats will be impacted. Impacts will be mitigated through a Conservation Memoranda of Agreement (CMOA) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see section VI).

#### **V C. Visual Effects**

Additional light emissions will be generated from the new facilities at the site. However, the additional light emissions are expected to be consistent with the ambient light conditions. Significant impacts are not expected.

#### **V D. Water Resources**

The proposed action will impact 795 linear feet of ephemeral streams as well as 0.119 acres of wetlands. Impacts are required to be mitigated (see section VI) to avoid significant impacts.

### **VI. Environmental Mitigation**

The Airport Sponsor shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits or certifications prior to initiating construction activities near or on the environmental resource requiring the permit. Project related permits, certifications, and other mitigation measures required for the proposed action are discussed below. It should be noted that best management practices (BMPs) are considered standard operating procedure and are not considered mitigation; therefore, they are not discussed in this section.

#### **VI A. Permits and Certifications**

The project will require the following permits or certifications:

Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Section 401 Water Quality Certificate from the Kentucky Division of Water.

A Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) permit will be filed with the Kentucky Division of Water.

### **VI B. Mitigation**

Without proper mitigation, the proposed action may exceed the threshold of significance. Mitigation shall be completed for the following environmental categories:

The airport sponsor is required to mitigate impacts to the streams and wetlands, noted above in Section V, through consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The airport sponsor is required to mitigate impacts to federally-listed Indiana bats and northern long eared bats through a CMOA with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **VII. Public Involvement**

The following agencies were consulted in the preparation of this EA:

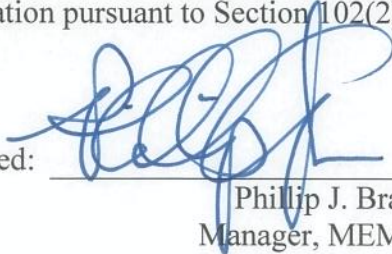
- Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Kentucky Heritage Council
- Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet
- Kentucky State Nature Preserves
- Kentucky Division of Fish Wildlife

The draft EA was made available at the airport. A public notice was placed in the Cincinnati Enquirer on June 23, 2016, announcing the availability of the draft EA and availability to request a public hearing as well as instructions for issuing comments. No request for a public hearing was made and no public comments were received.

### **VIII. Decision**

After careful and thorough consideration of the facts contained herein, the undersigned finds that approval of the proposed development is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101(a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and that it will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or otherwise include any condition requiring consultation pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Phillip J. Braden  
Manager, MEM-ADO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/16/16