

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 3:09 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Cc: Butler, Lindsay (FAA); Nelson, Dana; Boyd, Cameron
Subject: Upper Post Flats, Fort Snelling State Park, Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Ms. Fay:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office (DMA-ADO) has reviewed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed lease of Fort Snelling Upper Post State Park for 99 years to Fort Snelling Leased Housing Associates I, LLLP for rehabilitation of up to 215 rental housing units within 26 historic buildings of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) for affordable moderate income housing. The FAA appreciates being able to review the EAW given the project's close proximity to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP), owned and operated by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

As you are aware, the FAA recommends noise levels above a 65 day-night average sound level (DNL) as not suitable for residential use without proper mitigation. Airport noise can be problematic for residential communities within close proximity to airports. In review of the EAW, the FAA supports the measures provided to insulate buildings as needed to reduce noise from the exterior envelope of all buildings that are subject to ambient noise above FAA noise guidelines to a 45 DNL interior level and to avoid sleep interruption short duration impacts. These measures include:

- Restoring existing single-glazed windows to an air-tight condition.
- Addition of new storm windows and double glazing as needed.
- Air-tight construction of all windows, exterior walls and roofs (roofs would be non-vented).
- Repair or additions of plaster to wood/masonry interior walls, creation of sound channels and filling void spaces with sound insulation.
- Closed cell spray foam insulation would be used to fill void spaces in wooden roof trusses or partitions (attics).
- Gypsum board ceilings and sound channels added in roof trusses.
- Separation of floors between different units would include plaster repair to existing ceilings or damaged ceilings would be replaced and sound batt insulation placed in trusses.
- New dropped ceilings would be installed to conceal utilities (pipes, electrical etc.), meet fire code and may assist in noise reduction.
- All buildings would have central air conditioning for occupied interior spaces.

The FAA also supports the use of limited noise barriers such as berms, brick walls, awnings, roofing or there overhead features to reduce noise experienced at ground level in outdoor recreation areas.

If you have any questions or comments please direct inquiries to me.

Sincerely,

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