



AIRPORT OUTLINES ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS FOR LONG-RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For Immediate Release

October 2, 2012

HYANNIS – Barnstable Municipal Airport is proposing a series of steps to safeguard the groundwater that lies beneath it, as it maps long-range plans for private development of new general aviation hangars and the improvement of aircraft taxiways and aprons.

The airport and its engineering consultant, the Horsley Witten Group, recently submitted a final environmental impact report to the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, opening a public comment period through October 19, 2012.

The report is required because the airport's long-range master plan envisages potential facility improvements during the next 10-12 years. "It's possible but not certain that all of the improvements in the master plan will be undertaken," said Airport Manager Roland "Bud" Breault. "But considering the potential, it's important that we identify potential environmental effects and outline a plan to mitigate them."

The airport says it will adhere to performance standards established by the Cape Cod Commission's Regional Policy Plan and the Town of Barnstable's Local Comprehensive Plan. It pledges to restrict the use of hazardous materials in new facilities to a limit established by the commission in 2007.

Storm water runoff would be treated before it seeps into the ground. Any hazardous materials spills would be managed through facility and drainage controls. New wastewater

would be discharged into the town's sewer system. New hangars and tenants in existing facilities along the airport's East Ramp (adjacent to Route 28) would be required to connect to the town's sewer system when they renew their leases. Green design and renewal energy capability would be built into any new development and redevelopment.

"The focus of these mitigation measures is the continued protection of the groundwater that serves our community," said Airport Commission Chairman Ronald Pursutte. "The goal is to reduce our overall environmental footprint as we plan to enhance our facilities." He noted also that the airport intends to finalize a development agreement with the Cape Cod Commission once the state accepts the airport's environmental report. Such an agreement would establish building standards, exterior lighting requirements and other best management practices.

In its master plan, the airport says it may add or update up to 175,000 sq. ft. of general aviation and corporate hangar space on the East Ramp, build or upgrade up to 35,000 sq. ft. of new hangar space on its North Ramp (along Barnstable Road), improve aircraft taxiways and aprons, and seek to lease the land it owns along Route 28 where the former Mildred's Chowder House used to be.

"If the proposed infrastructure improvements are undertaken," Breault added, "they would increase the safety of aircraft operations and provide for private development or redevelopment of out-of-date hangars." Breault noted that new and better hangar space would, in turn, generate additional real estate tax income for the town, produce new lease revenue for the airport's enterprise fund and create jobs for the community.

Copies of the report are available for public inspection online at the airport's web site, www.town.barnstable.ma.us/airport, online at www.horsleywitten.com/HYA-FEIR.pdf, at the airport's administrative office in the new passenger terminal and at the Hyannis Public Library.

##

For further information, please contact Airport Manager Bud Breault at 508 775-2020 or at roland.breault@town.barnstable.ma.us.