



Volume 10, Issue 4

Winter 2012

MSP NOISE NEWS

A quarterly publication of the Metropolitan Airports Commission - Noise Program Office

Continuing Dialogue About MSP Departure Concerns

Aircraft noise over parts of south Minneapolis has increased recently and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) are working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to determine the cause.

In response to concerns from the Minneapolis Keewaydin and Ericsson neighborhoods about increased numbers of flights, the MAC conducted a detailed airspace analysis focusing on flight track data in the vicinity of these neighborhoods. The analyses compared 2010 flight track and noise data with 2011

data (January 1 – August 28). The results revealed that while the number of departures from Runway 30R declined 9 percent the number of departing aircraft over these neighborhoods increased 32.9 percent.

In addition, based on data collected from two remote monitoring towers in the area, measured noise levels in these neighborhoods also increased slightly. (RMT's record noise levels of individual flights.)

The NOC discussed these trends with the FAA and City of Minneapolis officials during its meeting on November 16, 2011. At that time, the FAA reported it



Flight tracks for Jan. 1—Aug. 28, 2011 over affected neighborhoods

(Continued on page 3 - Continuing Dialogue)

MAC to Host Open House for MSP 2020 EA/EAW

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is conducting an environmental review for proposed improvements to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP).

The MSP 2020 Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) analyzes the environmental consequences associated with phases of development necessary to meet MSP's 2020 and 2025 forecasted operational levels. Scenarios analyzed include: a Base Case (today's environment), a forecasted No Action, and two alternatives to address future development needs.

MAC has scheduled an open house for **Tuesday, January 31** from **5 to 8 pm** at the MAC's Executive Offices, **6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis** for the public to review the analysis of environmental impacts of the Preliminary MSP 2020 EA Improvements.

For more information, please visit mspairport.com/about-msp/msp-2020-ea or call 612-725-6455. ♦

NOC News



The MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) met on **Sept. 21** and **Nov. 16, 2011**

and discussed the following topics:

NOC Industry Co-chair Elected

At the November 16 meeting, members elected Jeff Hart, Delta Air Lines, to replace Mary Loefflholz as the Industry Representative Co-chair. Vern Wilcox, elected in July, remains the Community Representative Co-chair.

Noise Program Website Redesign

The MAC Noise Program Office is redesigning the macnoise.com website. A demonstration was

provided at the November meeting and the NOC members approved the new design. (See Page 3)

MSP 2020 Environmental Assessment/Worksheet – Noise Analysis

The Committee received an update regarding the MSP 2020 Environmental Assessment/Worksheet noise analysis. The next update will be provided at the January 18, 2012 meeting.

Aircraft Noise Health Effect Concerns

NOC community representatives reported they have plans to meet with representatives from the National Organization to Insure a Sound Controlled Environment (NOISE) regarding this topic. This

item was carried over for discussion at the January 2012 meeting.

Performance-based Navigation (PBN) Procedure Update

NOC members received a briefing regarding progress the Federal Aviation Administration has made in defining the PBN design criteria. MAC staff will continue to update the NOC as the process moves to the environmental review phase.

Next NOC Meeting

The next MSP NOC meeting will be **January 18, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.** at the MAC General Offices located at 6040 28th Avenue South, in Minneapolis. For more information, please call 612-725-6455 or visit:

www.macnoise.com ♦

Ask the Expert

Q. How are airports regulated in Minnesota?

A. There are more than 150 airports currently in use in the State of Minnesota (MN). The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) oversees many aspects and activities associated with these airports, including: administering grants/funding; aircraft registration for aircraft based in MN; radio and visual navigational aids; weather information for pilots; aviation education and safety information; programs to promote aviation; and assisting communities with aviation planning and air service issues, among others.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) was created in 1943 by the Minnesota Legislature to promote air transportation in the seven-county metropolitan area. The MAC owns and operates seven airports: Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP), St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP), Anoka County-Blaine Airport (ANE), Flying Cloud Airport (FCM), Crystal Airport (MIC), Airlake Airport (LVN), and Lake Elmo Airport (21D). The MAC's 15-member board of commissioners consists of 13 appointments by Minnesota's Governor and one appointment each by the mayors of Minneapolis and Saint Paul to set MAC's policies.

While airport owners and operators, like the MAC, are responsible for maintaining airport facilities and complying with related Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR), they do not have regulatory authority over aircraft in flight or aircraft operating procedures. Only the Federal Aviation Administration has jurisdiction over the aircraft flying into and out of any airport. Only aircraft operators have authority as to the specific operating procedures they implement, including the times they operate and the aircraft they fly. For more information on MAC-owned airports, please visit: www.metroairports.org ♦

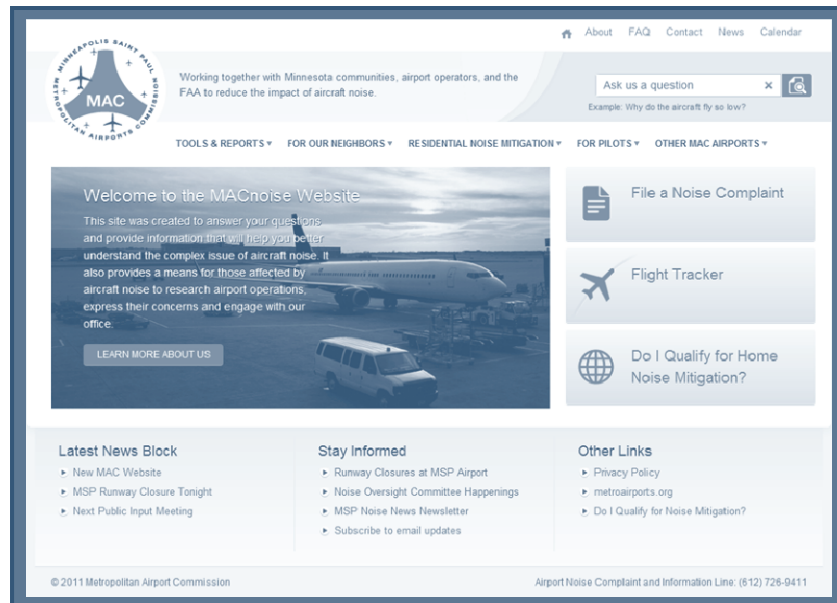
The New Face of macnoise.com

For more than a decade, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Noise Program Office has published and maintained a website – www.macnoise.com – solely dedicated to providing the public with pertinent information about aircraft noise associated with each of the MAC’s seven airports.

Recently this site underwent a complete makeover. The redesign offers both a new look and more efficient access to sought-after data.

The project was completed as part of the MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) 2011 Work Plan. The NOC reviewed and approved the new design at its November 2011 meeting.

The site includes aircraft operations reports, flight tracking tools, noise level assessments/contours and



information about noise abatement efforts, including the Residential Noise Mitigation Program.

One notable enhancement is the subscription feature, which allows users to sign up for news feeds and a host of other topics that may be of interest. Also, a new search function is available at the top of every page

to help locate answers to specific questions.

The MAC believes the redesigned site will become a valued resource for community members. Please take a few minutes to visit the site and provide your feedback via the contact page:

www.macnoise.com. ♦

Continuing Dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

planned to perform additional analysis of its operations to determine if it has safe, feasible alternatives to the current procedures. Carl Rydeen, FAA MSP Air Traffic Manager, committed also to reporting the FAA’s findings to the NOC as soon as results are available. The topic is on the NOC’s January 18, 2012 agenda.

Although the FAA has control over air traffic operations and departure heading usage, the MAC remains actively engaged in the discussion.

On December 8 MAC staff held an open house offering residents an opportunity to learn more about the issue. Approximately 30 people attended. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions and have a dialogue with MAC Commissioners and executives about roles and responsibilities associated with aviation regulations, aircraft noise measurements and metrics, the MSP Noise Oversight Committee, historical aircraft arrival and departure data and other MAC Noise Program Office functions.

For more information about the open house, aircraft flight tracks and/or noise data, please visit the MAC Noise Program Office website at www.macnoise.com or send an email to info@macnoise.com. ♦



*A quarterly publication of the Metropolitan
Airports Commission - Noise Program Office*

6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Phone: 612-725-6455
Noise Complaint Line: 612-726-9411
E-mail: info@macnoise.com
Website: www.macnoise.com

Winter 2012

MSP NOISE NEWS

Inside this issue:

Continuing Dialogue About MSP Departure Concerns	1
MAC to Host Open House for MSP 2020 EA/EAW	1
NOC News	2
Ask the Expert	2
The New Face of macnoise.com	3

Next Public Input Meeting will be January 24,

Please join Metropolitan Airports Commission staff at the next MSP Noise Public Input Meeting taking place **Tuesday, January 24, 2012** at 7 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Metropolitan Airports Commission General Offices, 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis. This is an opportunity for residents to ask questions and learn more about what's new at MSP in terms of aircraft noise.

For more information, please contact Christene Sirois Kron at **612-725-6455** or nocsecretary@mspmact.org. ♦

If you no longer wish to receive this publication, and other airport noise related information, please call or e-mail Christene Sirois Kron at 612-725-6455 or nocsecretary@mspmact.org. In your e-mail, please write the word "delete" in the subject line, followed by your street address and city.



Printed on Recycled Paper