

From: Trout, Michael (MDOT) TroutM1@michigan.gov
Subject: Plymouth-Canton-Mettetal Airport Concerns-MDOT Response
Date: May 9, 2019 at 7:50 AM
To: matt@close1d2.org



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Dear Mr. Grisius:

Director Ajegba has asked that I respond to your concerns regarding the Plymouth-Canton-Mettetal Airport located in Canton, Michigan, as it pertains to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with additional information to address your concerns related to leaded aviation fuels and use of the airport.

Aviation Fuel

Leaded aviation fuels are used in piston aircraft engines to ensure proper combustion in extreme temperatures and altitudes. This additive, and its use in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified aircraft engines, is regulated entirely by the FAA. We remain in contact with the FAA as they continue efforts to eliminate leaded fuel requirements from the existing fleet of piston-powered aircraft under the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI). More information, including a September 2018 update on the PAFI project, can be found on the FAA's website at www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/avgas.

Additionally, MDOT requested an independent environmental review of the site conditions at the airport. As part of this review, fourteen soil borings were completed in an investigation area where aircraft routinely idle and throttle up. Nine additional soil borings were completed in a background area not subject to aircraft activity. The investigation-area sample results were compared to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) risk-based screening levels for direct contact exposure and particulate inhalation exposure. After a detailed analysis, the environmental review concluded that "based on soil-lead concentrations observed, there does not appear to be a health risk to site workers or the public under the current site use conditions." We believe this review provides facts that serve to further our understanding of environmental concerns related to the airport and we continue to monitor any changes in airport utilization which may alter the considerations outlined in the analysis.

Airport Use

You raised concerns regarding the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 113's use of the airport. We believe it is important to note that Chapter 113 is a tenant of the airport. Events held by Chapter 113 are intended to illustrate the contributions of those involved in aviation and to strengthen the connection between the surrounding communities and the airport. The airport has also been used by a variety of community groups including local mothers' groups, school field trips, and other community gatherings.

Conclusion

Since its early 20th Century establishment through the State of Michigan acquisition in 1995 until the present day, this airport has provided significant benefit and today is estimated to provide \$16 million in annual economic impact to the community. As a good neighbor to the surrounding community, the airport has a rich history of outreach and engagement with a multitude of groups and individuals, all in an effort to both inspire and educate the public in regard to the many exciting aspects of aviation. I will note that this facility is subject to the agreement between Canton Township and the State of Michigan that ensures the airport will be operated safely, and grant assurances to the federal government that further provide for compliance with federal aviation regulations.

Thank you for your interest in the airport and for bringing your concerns to our attention. We believe the environmental analysis and operating principles described here, in addition to the meetings with MDOT staff, legislators, and community leaders you have participated in, provide the additional information required to fully address your concerns. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (517) 335-9568, or troutm1@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Trout
Executive Administrator
Office of Aeronautics