

Appendix A
August 29, 2006 Correspondence from the USACE



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
North Permits Branch
Panama City Regulatory Office
SAJ-2001-5264

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PANAMA CITY REGULATORY OFFICE
1002 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 350
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32405-3648

AUG 29 2006

Ms. Virginia Lane
Federal Aviation Administration
Orlando Airports District Office
5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 400
Orlando, FL 32822

Re: Panama City-Bay County International Airport and Industrial District
Proposed Relocation of the Panama City-Bay County International Airport

Dear Ms. Lane:

This letter is in reference to your request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provide the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with reasonable assurance that the preferred alternative as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for relocation of the Panama City/Bay County International Airport is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) for Section 404 purposes.

In its role as the cooperating agency in the preparation of the FEIS for this project, the USACE chose to develop its own purpose and need criteria to not only guide its review of the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but also to guide its review under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines and its public interest review. The USACE also conducted its own alternatives review in the FEIS. The USACE determined that the only feasible and reasonable alternative that would accomplish the purpose and need for the project, was the applicant's preferred alternative, which is the West Bay Site 8,400-foot alternative. This alternative is the FAA's preferred alternative as described in the FEIS.

Overall, the USACE concurs with the FEIS, and that the preferred alternative appears to be the LEDPA. The USACE is continuing to work with the applicant to finalize an acceptable mitigation plan.

The USACE intends to issue a separate Record of Decision combined with a Statement of Findings (RODSOF) for compliance with NEPA and the Clean Water Act. The USACE intends to adopt and reference the FEIS, and to reference the FAA's ROD,

as appropriate, in its RODSOF. The USACE will supplement information from the FEIS in its RODSOF, as needed, for its Section 404 and public interest reviews.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in finalizing the FAA's ROD and the USACE's RODSOF.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Mr. Don Hambrick by writing to the letterhead address, by telephone at (850) 763-0717 ext. 25, or by email at gordon.a.hambrick@saj02.usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

for 
Oswaldo Collazo
Chief, North Permits Branch