



LAX/Community Noise Roundtable Aviation Noise News

May 8, 2019

League of Quiet Skies Voters Holds Town Hall on Airplane Noise in Seattle Area

[Source: Federal Way Mirror, May 3, 2019](#)

The recently formed League of Quiet Skies Voters, consisting of members in the vicinity of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SeaTac Airport), held a town hall meeting to discuss noise-related legislation on April 25, 2019. Elected officials who attended included Washington State Rep. Mike Pellicciotti, Congressman Adam Smith, and a number of officials from the City of Federal Way and the City of Des Moines. Several Port of Seattle commissioners also attended, along with a representative of the World Health Organization; the Port of Seattle operates SeaTac Airport.

The town hall participants touched on a range of topics related to aircraft environmental impacts, from potential health effects of noise to air emissions associated with aircraft engines. At the meeting, Rep. Pellicciotti and Congressman Smith discussed their state and federal bills (respectively) related to aircraft environmental impacts. Participants also discussed Washington Senate Bill 5370, which would form an aviation coordinating commission that would be tasked with locating a site for a new commercial airport. The Bill currently sits with the Governor of Washington for signing.

Conservation Group Sues U.S. Navy for Information on Olympic National Park Overflights

[Source: Public News Service, May 3, 2019](#)

A Washington, DC-based group named the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has filed suit against the U.S. Navy to obtain more information on naval jet overflights of Olympic National Park near Seattle, WA. The group filed a Freedom of Information Act request in 2016 regarding training overflights of the National Park by naval Boeing EA-18G Growler aircraft, and the group claims that the information provided by the Navy in response was limited.

The NPCA has particular interest in whether the Navy has reviewed noise impacts of the training overflights on wildlife, as well as what conversations have occurred between the Navy and the FAA on use of the airspace over Olympic National Park. The Navy recently published a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Northwest Training and Testing project, which proposes to use an area overlapping the National Park for military training. The National Park is a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World

Heritage Site and received over 3 million visitors in the year 2018.

Canadian Airline to Convert its Seaplane Fleet to Electric Propulsion

[Source: CleanTechnica, April 6, 2019](#)

Harbor Air Group is a Canadian airline group that operates over 30,000 seaplane flights a year, with a focus on the British Columbia region of Canada. The group's fleet consists primarily of de Havilland Beaver, Single Otter, and Twin Otter seaplanes. Harbor Air Group is now working with an electric aircraft propulsion company named magniX to convert its entire fleet of 40 seaplanes to electric propulsion power. Because the group's flights are typically 30 minutes or less, current battery technology now allows sufficient aircraft endurance and range for commercial use by Harbor Air Group.

The group intends to use a 750-horsepower electric propulsion system from magniX as the power system for its aircraft. The change from internal combustion engines to electric propulsion will save on maintenance costs as well as fuel, because the magniX electric propulsion system has lower maintenance requirements than Harbor Air Group's existing aircraft engines.

FAA Certifies the First U.S. Drone Company to Operate as an Airline

[Source: National Public Radio, April 23, 2019](#)

The FAA recently certified Wing Aviation, a subsidiary of Alphabet (which owns Google), to operate drone deliveries as a U.S. airline. The company originally began life as a Google project, launching thousands of delivery drone test flights in the United States and Australia over several years. The airline certification enables Wing Aviation to begin commercial delivery services using drones in the U.S. Wing is now reaching out to businesses in Virginia, one of its test areas, to sell its capabilities as a commercial delivery system. In April of this year, Wing launched commercial drone delivery service in Canberra, Australia after receiving approval from regulators there.

The drones used by Wing feature 12 vertical lift propellers and two horizontal propellers, for 14 propellers in total. They are capable of lifting loads of up to 3.3 pounds and are intended to rapidly deliver "everyday" items such as food and supplies. Other companies are working on commercial drone delivery service development, including Amazon, United Parcel Service, and DHL Express.

The LAX/Community Noise Roundtable Aviation Noise News provides a small sample of aircraft noise-related news articles that occur in between the regular Roundtable meetings. Roundtable members are encouraged to review their complimentary issues of Airport Noise Report between each meeting to stay fully abreast of aircraft noise matters. Some articles listed in this Aviation Noise News summary may require a subscription.