

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission



For Immediate Release

Contact: Brian Gilligan, Executive Director
773-686-3198 or 773-732-9322
bgilligan@ohare.com

O'Hare Area School Noise Monitoring Results Released

(ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL) — December 16, 2004 — The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission's School Sound Insulation Committee today released the results of aircraft noise monitoring at 15 schools around O'Hare and approved the ranking of those schools according to the program's established criteria. While being ranked is an important step in securing funding for sound insulation work, it is not a guarantee that funding will be available for a specific school for either the design phase or actual sound insulation work.

During the monitoring, which was conducted by the Chicago Department of Aviation's Noise Office, each school selected the rooms that were tested over a four-day period. The selection of the monitoring days was based on predicted maximum aircraft activity in the vicinity of the school as determined by weather conditions and runway usage. Three noise monitors were used for each school. One monitor measured exterior noise levels, one measured noise levels with classroom windows closed and the third monitored noise levels with classroom windows open.

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission's School Sound Insulation Committee has approved the use of an eight hour Equivalent Sound Level (Leq) to determine the impact of aircraft noise during normal school hours. Consistent with FAA guidelines, the ranking of the schools is based on the "windows-open" noise levels.

The O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program is the world's largest. It has sound insulated 92 schools to date at a total cost of almost \$224 million with funding from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Passenger Facility Charges (PFC). There are currently 14 schools in the design/construction phase of the program.

— MORE —

O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program Monitoring Results

Rank	School	2004 Monitoring Date	Outdoor Leq(8)	Windows Open Leq(8)	Windows Closed Leq(8)
1	East Leyden High School, Franklin Park	July 29	65.1	53.6	40.4
2	Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove Village	July 16	59.8	51.6	33.5
3	Ridgewood High School, Norridge	November 20	57.9	51.4	33.4
4	Stevenson Elementary School, Des Plaines	October 8	65.8	50.9	45.1
5	Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, Park Ridge	August 6	60.3	49.0	36.5
6	St. Andrews Lutheran, Park Ridge	July 23	61.0	48.8	34.1
7	St. Cyprian School, River Grove	October 1	59.5	48.6	41.5
8	Jane Addams School, Melrose Park	September 2	58.7	48.4	40.4
9	George Washington Elementary, Park Ridge	August 19	61.0	47.7	41.2
10	John Mills Elementary School, Elmwood Park	October 1	59.9	47.4	27.4
11	George B. Carpenter Elementary School, Park Ridge	August 6	64.3	46.4	35.9
12	Stevenson School, Melrose Park	September 2	61.2	46.0	35.9
13	Brentwood Baptist Christian Academy, Des Plaines	November 4	61.7	43.6	29.1
14	Zion Evangelical Lutheran Elementary, Bensenville	October 14	56.9	43.6	35.4
15	Brentwood Elementary School, Des Plaines	November 4	55.1	40.8	22.3

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission began working in 1996 to bring together the parties that are most able to reduce aircraft noise with representatives of communities affected by aircraft noise in a partnership to address jet noise at its impact and sources. The Commission's current membership includes the villages of Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Bellwood, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Hoffman Estates, Melrose Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Norridge, Palatine, River Grove, River Forest, Rosemont, Schaumburg and Stone Park and; the cities of Des Plaines, Northlake, Oak Park, Park Ridge, Rolling Meadows and Chicago; Cook County; and school districts 59 (Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect), 63 (Des Plaines, Niles, Morton Grove and Glenview), 80 (Norridge), 81 (Schiller Park), 84 (Franklin Park), 84¼(River Grove), 85¼(River Grove), 86 (Harwood Heights), 87 (Berkeley, Northlake, Bellwood), 89 (Maywood, Melrose Park and Broadview), 214 (Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove), 234 (Norridge, Harwood Heights), 299 (Chicago Public Schools) and 401 (Elmwood Park). More information about the Commission, including its meeting schedule, can be found at www.oharenoise.org.

###