



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Chief Counsel

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

October 21, 2015

Mr. Peter Steenland  
Sidley Austin, LLP  
1501 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Paulding County Airport Part 139 Application

Dear Mr. Steenland:

Thank you for your October 14 letter to Winsome Lenfert, Manager of the Office of Airports in the FAA's Southern Region, on behalf of certain residents of Paulding County. In your letter, you recommend that the FAA delay issuance of any Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Paulding Northwest Atlanta Airport (PUJ) pending the resolution of legal issues raised by the Paulding County Board of Commissioners and the City of Atlanta in opposition to commercial service. You believe it would be more prudent and resourceful for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to wait until these legal questions are finally resolved to move forward with environmental review.

We apologize for the delayed response to your letter as a Notice of the DEA's Availability was published in a Dallas, Georgia newspaper on Friday, October 16. Nevertheless, we have carefully considered your concerns. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) exists to ensure, in part, that potential environmental impacts arising from proposed federal actions are disclosed to other governmental agencies and to interested citizens and that the public is afforded a meaningful opportunity to comment. We see value in informing the public of potential environmental impacts of the various projects associated with the proposed introduction of commercial service at PUJ and in providing an opportunity for public involvement at this time. For this reason, we have determined that moving forward with the environmental review process is appropriate. We, of course, recognize the likely need to revisit legal issues that remain unresolved once the FAA is in position to make any final agency decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne A. Fuller".

Daphne A. Fuller  
Assistant Chief Counsel  
Airports & Environmental Law Division  
FAA Office of the Chief Counsel