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## **Appendix L – Public and Agency Review of the Draft EA**

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## Public Involvement Details

A public notice (found in this appendix) was advertised in a local newspaper explaining that the Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment (EA) was available for public review and comment and included directions on how to provide comments to the project team and request a public hearing.

To allow the public a chance to thoroughly review the Draft Short Form EA, the document was available for 31 days prior to the closing of the commenting period. Physical copies of the Draft Short Form EA document were available for public review at the West Michigan Regional Airport (Airport) Administration Office during normal business hours and an electronic copy was available on the Airport's website.

## Summary of Public Comments and Responses

No public comments were received.

## Summary of Agency Comments and Responses

Correspondence from six agencies was received on the Draft Short Form EA and is included below:

- **City of Holland**

The City provided a letter that included four comments. These comments are included below and the letter is provided later in this appendix.

1. *The proposed improvements fall within the jurisdiction of the Tulip Inter-County Drain Board (Board), so separate approval is required from that Board as well as the City of Holland (City) for its stormwater ordinance requirements. The Board will not permit additional impervious surfaces as proposed without mitigation improvements.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted. The Final Short Form EA has been revised to include these approvals for stormwater ordinance requirements, as well as reference to the needed mitigation improvements. These edits were made in **Section 3a. Surface Waters.**

2. *The proposed improvements will require some large-diameter storm sewer work.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted. Coordination will take place between the City and the Airport prior to final design.

3. *The improvements as proposed would eliminate the possibility of connecting the end of Geurink Blvd. with the end of Regent Blvd. to the north, which has been discussed as a possibility in the past and is included in the WMRA Airport Layout Plan (ALP). The City wants to retain the ability to connect these two streets in the future and may be willing to approve a different location for the connector.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted. The Airport will coordinate with the City regarding the desired street connections. However, no changes to the project area are expected.

4. *Public water and sanitary sewer lines bisect the subject property and if easements do not exist for those utilities, they will be required. Any future buildings/structures would not be permitted within the easement areas. There maybe a possibility to move these utilities, but the Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) would need to approve the move.*

**Airport Response:** During final design the Airport will coordinate with the City regarding the need for easements and the location of existing utilities. These requirements were added to the Final Short Form EA in **Section 7, Permits.**

- **City of Zeeland**

The City Manager responded that they had no comments on the Draft Short Form EA.

- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

A representative from the Michigan DNR responded that they had no comments.

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

*EPA's NEPA program is in receipt of Mead & Hunt's email requesting review of a Draft Supplemental EA for the proposed North Hangar Taxilane Area at the West Michigan Regional Airport (BIV or Airport) in Holland, Michigan. At this time, due to staffing constraints, EPA will not be reviewing or providing comments on the documents submitted. However, please continue to send us NEPA documents for review. We would appreciate having a minimum of 30 days to review and provide comments on EAs.*

*To ensure that all of FAA's NEPA documents are correctly routed to the NEPA program, please be sure to send all NEPA-related documents and requests to the EPA Region 5 NEPA email box at [R5NEPA@epa.gov](mailto:R5NEPA@epa.gov).*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted. All future NEPA-related documents and requests will be sent to the EPA Region 5 NEPA email box at [R5NEPA@epa.gov](mailto:R5NEPA@epa.gov).

- **Fishbeck – on behalf of the Allegan County Drain Commissioner**

A representative from Fishbeck provided a Tulip Intercounty Drain (Tulip) Policy Review in response to the request for comments on Draft Short Form EA. This document is included later in this appendix, and its findings are provided below:

*Upon review, no significant impacts to the Tulip have been identified presuming the site will be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Holland Stormwater Ordinance and the Tulip Watershed Policy Statement.*

**Airport Response:** The Final Short Form EA in **Section 3a. Surface Waters** has been revised to include compliance with the City of Holland stormwater ordinance requirements.

*The draft Short Form EA should be updated to include the most recent FEMA map that shows the influence of the 100-year floodplain. Fill within the Tulip floodplain must be mitigated under the Tulip Watershed Policy Statement. A Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) permit may also be required.*

**Airport Response:** **Appendix K Water Resources** of the Final Short Form EA has been revised to include the most recent FEMA map. **Section 2. Floodplains** has been revised to include the requirement to mitigate floodplain impacts. Fill placed within the regulated floodplain will be mitigated with a compensating cut at a 1:1.25 ratio, as outlined in the Tulip Watershed Policy Statement.

- **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)**

EGLE provided two separate responses. First, an email message was sent addressing floodplain impacts for the project location (found later in this appendix). Second, a formal letter (also found later in this appendix) providing five comments on the Draft Short Form EA. The comments are found below:

Email message addressing the floodplain impacts:

*Thank you for passing along the draft short form EA for the proposed hanger and taxilane expansion at West Michigan Regional Airport. The assessment states that there will be no impacts to the 100-year floodplain of North Branch Macatawa River, but the FEMA maps appear to intersect with the eastern portion of the project (see attached Firmette for the project location). If you believe the work is outside the regulated floodplain, please provide detailed maps and drawings showing that the work is outside the 100-year floodplain or above the elevation of 669.7-feet.*

**Airport Response:** **Section 2. Floodplains** of the Final Short Form EA has been revised to state that there will be minor impacts to the 100-year floodplain and a Part 31, Floodplain Permit will be completed prior to earth moving activities.

The following five comments were included in the formal letter:

1. *The project, as proposed in the EA, will NOT require a permit under Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, and Part 303 Wetlands Protection of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). The existing stormwater drainage ditches were constructed in upland, so any impacts to them will NOT be regulated under Part 303.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted.

2. *If the project intersects with the 100-year floodplain of the north branch Macatawa River and work occurs below the elevation of 669.7-feet, then a permit will be required under the Floodplain Regulatory Authority of Part 31, Water Resources, of the NREPA. The FEMA FIRMette for the area shows the floodplain extending throughout the detention pond and the northeastern corner of the property.*

**Airport Response:** **Section 2. Floodplains** of the Final Short Form EA has been revised to include the need for a permit under the Floodplain Regulatory Authority of Part 31, Water Resources.

3. *A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit will be required for storm water discharges associated with construction activities in accordance with Rule 2190 promulgated in accordance with Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the NREPA.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted. This need for this permit was included in the Draft Short Form EA.

4. *A permit will be required under Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the NREPA. Part 91 permits are generally issued by the county or, in some instances, the local municipality.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted. This need for this permit was included in the Draft Short Form EA.

5. *A review of our database indicates no occurrences of State and/or Federal Threatened and Endangered species in the project location. However, your project location is within the range of the Northern Long Eared Bat and Indiana Bat, which are considered potentially present wherever suitable habitat exists within their range. You should consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service prior to performing work or applying for permits.*

**Airport Response:** Comment noted.

**Affidavit of Publication and Public Notice**

**LOCALiQ**

Petoskey News-Review  
The Monroe News | Holland Sentinel  
Gaylord Herald Times | Daily Telegram

PO Box 630491 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0491

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

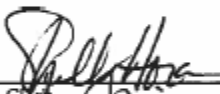
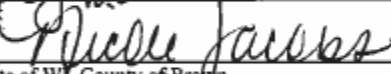
William Ballard  
William Ballard  
1207 S Clinton AVE  
Saint Johns MI 48879-2351

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF OTTAWA & ALLEGAN

The Holland Sentinel, a newspaper distributed in the counties of Ottawa & Allegan, published in the City of Holland, County of Ottawa, State of Michigan printed and published and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issues dated on:

07/16/2023

and that the fees charged are legal.  
Sworn to and subscribed before on 07/16/2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary, State of WI, County of Brown  
8-21-26

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$139.60  
Order No: 9053763 # of Copies:  
Customer No: 976254 1  
PO #:

**THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!**

*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

NICOLE JACOBS  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A SHORT FORM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND  
OPPORTUNITY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING - IF REQUESTED  
FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS  
AT  
WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL AIRPORT  
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN**

The Airport has received requests to develop additional hangar space in the 17.1-acre area north of the existing terminal building. Currently, there is no aviation infrastructure serving this area. To meet the needs of existing and future users of the Airport, BIV is planning to construct the necessary infrastructure to provide access to this area. Proposed development includes a community hangar, taxiways, apron expansion, construction grading, lighting, fencing, utilities, and site restoration.

All interested persons are hereby notified of the availability of a Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment (Short Form EA) that evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed improvements. Impacts were documented in the Draft Short Form EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. A hardcopy of the Draft Short Form EA is available for review during normal business hours at the Airport or an electronic version is available anytime online on the Airport's website until August 16, 2023. Documents can be found at the following locations:

• Hardcopy is available at:  
West Michigan Regional Airport  
60 Geurink Blvd  
Holland, MI 49423

• Electronic version is available at:  
<https://westmichiganregionalairport.com/news/>

If substantial written requests for a Public Hearing are received, the Airport will schedule and hold a Public Hearing on the Short Form EA. The purpose of the Public Hearing (if requested) would be to consider the effects of the proposed action and whether the improvements are in the public interest and consistent with the goals and objectives of the community. Written requests for a Public Hearing must be received by August 16, 2023 at the address listed below.

Citizens are also encouraged to submit written comments or concerns regarding the project by mail or email. Comments submitted in this manner must be received by August 16, 2023 to be included in the official project record. Send written or email comments to:

William Ballard, AICP  
Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
2605 Port Lansing Road  
Lansing, MI 48906  
517-321-8334  
[william.ballard@meadhunt.com](mailto:william.ballard@meadhunt.com)

**Actual Copies of Letter and Comments Received by Mail or Email**

**City of Holland Email:**

Good Morning, Mr. Ballard,

Attached is a PDF letter with our comments regarding the proposed North Hangar Taxilane at West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland, Michigan

For your convenience, the original hard copy of the letter has been mailed today.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Best to you,

Keith Van Beek  
City Manager  
City of Holland  
Michigan

**Sinka Babinec**  
Executive Assistant

City of Holland, Office of the City Manager  
270 South River Avenue, Holland, MI 49423  
[s.babinec@cityofholland.com](mailto:s.babinec@cityofholland.com) | m 616.355.1310 | d 616.355.1317 | f 616.355.1450 |







**Office of the City Manager**  
Keith Van Beek  
City Manager

July 25, 2023

Mr. William Ballard, AICP  
Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
2605 Port Lansing Road  
Lansing, MI 48906

Re: Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment for the proposed North Hangar Taxilane Area  
West Michigan Regional Airport (WMRA), Holland, MI

Dear Mr. Ballard,

The City of Holland is excited and supportive of the proposed taxilane and the future development of the WMAA owned property to the north of terminal as denoted on the supplied project area map. With that said, we do have a few comments for you to consider.

1. The proposed improvements fall within the jurisdiction of the Tulip Inter-County Drain Board (Board), so separate approval is required from that Board as well as the City of Holland (City) for its stormwater ordinance requirements. The Board will not permit additional impervious surfaces as proposed without mitigation improvements.
2. The proposed improvements will require some large-diameter storm sewer work.
3. The improvements as proposed would eliminate the possibility of connecting the end of Geurink Blvd. with the end of Regent Blvd. to the north, which has been discussed as a possibility in the past and is included in the WMRA Airport Layout Plan (ALP). The City wants to retain the ability to connect these two streets in the future and may be willing to approve a different location for the connector.
4. Public water and sanitary sewer lines bisect the subject property and if easements do not exist for those utilities, they will be required. Any future buildings/structures would not be permitted within the easement areas. There maybe a possibility to move these utilities, but the Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) would need to approve the move.

The City of Holland appreciates the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Van Beek', written over a horizontal line.

Keith Van Beek  
City Manager

cc: Mark Vanderploeg, Community & Neighborhood Services Director  
Steve Peterson, Senior Planner  
Brian White, Transportation Services Director  
Aaron Thelenwood, West Michigan Airport Authority Director

Office of the City Manager

270 South River Ave  
Holland, MI 49423

P 616.355.1310  
F 616.355.1490

cityofholland.com  
k.vanbeek@cityofholland.com

**City of Zeeland Letter:**

Mr. Ballard –

Thank you for submitting the above information to the City of Zeeland. We have no comments on the Short Form EA.

Thanks, Tim K.



**Timothy R. Klunder | City Manager**  
City of Zeeland | Feel the Zee!

21 s. elm street | zeeland, michigan, 49464  
**p:** 616.772.6400 | **f:** 616.772.5352  
**e:** citymgr@cityofzeeland.com | **w:** www.cityofzeeland.com

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources Email:**

Mr. Ballard,  
The DNR has no comments to add in reference to the above-referenced environmental assessment.  
Thank you,  
Tania

Tania Sadler  
Executive Assistant to Deputy Directors Scott Whitcomb and Kristin Phillips  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
517-930-4989



**Environmental Protection Agency Email**

**From:** Pelloso, Liz <[Pelloso.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Pelloso.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:18 PM  
**To:** Courtney Beard <[Courtney.Beard@meadhunt.com](mailto:Courtney.Beard@meadhunt.com)>; [misty.peavler@faa.gov](mailto:misty.peavler@faa.gov)  
**Subject:** EPA REVIEW -- BIV N Hangar Area Taxilane Short Form EA

Misty and Courtney,

EPA's NEPA program is in receipt of Mead & Hunt's email requesting review of a Draft Supplemental EA for the proposed North Hangar Taxilane Area at the West Michigan Regional Airport (BIV or Airport) in Holland, Michigan. At this time, due to staffing constraints, EPA will not be reviewing or providing comments on the documents submitted. However, please continue to send us NEPA documents for review. We would appreciate having a minimum of 30 days to review and provide comments on EAs.

To ensure that all of FAA's NEPA documents are correctly routed to the NEPA program, please be sure to send all NEPA-related documents and requests to the EPA Region 5 NEPA email box at [R5NEPA@epa.gov](mailto:R5NEPA@epa.gov).

Thanks much,  
Liz Pellosso

Liz Pellosso, PWS  
National Environmental Policy Act Team  
EPA Region 5  
Phone: 312-886-7425  
Email: [pellosso.liz@epa.gov](mailto:pellosso.liz@epa.gov)

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**From:** Courtney Beard <[Courtney.Beard@meadhunt.com](mailto:Courtney.Beard@meadhunt.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:23 PM  
**To:** R5NEPA <[R5NEPA@epa.gov](mailto:R5NEPA@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Project: BIV N Hangar Area Taxilane Short Form EA - File Transfer - BIV Draft Short Form EA Transmittal

Good Afternoon,

For your information and review is a link to download an electronic copy of the Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment (Draft Short Form EA) for a Proposed North Hangar Taxilane Area at the West Michigan Regional Airport (BIV or Airport) in Holland, Michigan. Hard copies of this document are available upon request.

A legal notice announcing that the Draft Short Form EA was available for public review and comment was published in a local newspaper on July 16, 2023. The notice explained that a hard copy was available at the Airport Office and electronically on the Airport's website. The legal notice also provided information on how the public could request a public meeting if so desired.

Following review and comment by your agency, if no significant impacts are identified, it is the Airport's intention to submit this document to the approving authorities (Federal Aviation Administration), with a recommendation that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) be prepared. A FONSI is the final step in the environmental clearance process.

In order to maintain the project schedule, your comments are requested by August 21, 2023. Please send your written or email comments to:

MEAD & HUNT, Inc.  
William Ballard, AICP  
2605 Port Lansing Road  
Lansing, MI 48906  
[william.ballard@meadhunt.com](mailto:william.ballard@meadhunt.com)

Thanks, and have a great afternoon.

**Courtney Beard**  
Direct: 517-908-3146 | [Transfer Files](#)  
[meadhunt.com](http://meadhunt.com) | **Experience Exceptional**

**Fishbeck Email – on behalf of the Allegan County Drain Commissioner**

Denise,

Please find our review letter attached.

By this email we have copied William Ballard with Mead & Hunt who requested comments from your office no later than August 18, 2023.

**Claire E. Schwartz, PE | Senior Civil Engineer**

Fishbeck | w: 616.464.3947 | c: 616.560.5224 | [Fishbeck.com](http://Fishbeck.com)

August 10, 2023  
Project No. 201462C

Ms. Denise Medemar  
Allegan County Drain Commissioner  
113 Chestnut Street  
Allegan, MI 49010

Re: West Michigan Regional Airport (Airport), North Hangar Area Taxilane  
City of Holland, Allegan County  
Tulip Intercounty Drain Policy Review

Dear Denise:

Fishbeck has completed a review of the draft "Short Environmental Assessment Form for Airport Development Projects" (Short Form EA) and accompanying Appendix K for the Airport North Hangar Area Taxilane prepared for the Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Aeronautics by Mead & Hunt, Inc. Our review was completed in response to the Notice of Availability (NOA) letter from Mead & Hunt, Inc. addressed to your office and dated July 18, 2023. Our review is limited to the preliminary stormwater management plan for the site in accordance with the Watershed Policy Statement for the Tulip Intercounty Drain Drainage Board.

### Proposed Site Improvements

From the Short Form EA: The Airport owns a 17.1-acre area north of the existing terminal building currently without aviation infrastructure. To meet the needs of existing and future users, the Airport is planning to construct the necessary infrastructure to provide access to this area. Proposed future development includes private and corporate hangars, taxilanes, taxilane connectors, apron expansion, construction grading, lighting, fencing, utilities, and site restoration (Figure 1).

Major stormwater improvements include enclosing approximately 1,300 lineal feet of drainage ditch and expanding the existing stormwater detention basin to accommodate an additional 5.43 acres of impervious area.



Figure 1 – Proposed Site Improvements

### Site Location and Stormwater Management Requirements

The site is located in the Tulip Intercounty Drain (Tulip) Drainage District on the west side of M-40 in Allegan County. Under the Tulip Watershed Policy Statement, stormwater detention is required for flood control. The site will also need to meet the additional stormwater requirements in the City of Holland Stormwater Ordinance.

The existing detention basin and easterly portion of the site is located within the Tulip floodplain, which has also been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The most recent effective map is dated June 21, 2023. The FEMA map shows an elevation of 669.7 feet for the 1-percent chance (100-year) floodplain at this location (Figure 2).

The Tulip Policy Statement requires that any fill placed within the 100-year floodplain (or lost floodplain) be mitigated with compensating cut at a 1:1.25 ratio. The compensating cut must allow for the Tulip flood flow to move freely in and out of the excavated floodplain area.

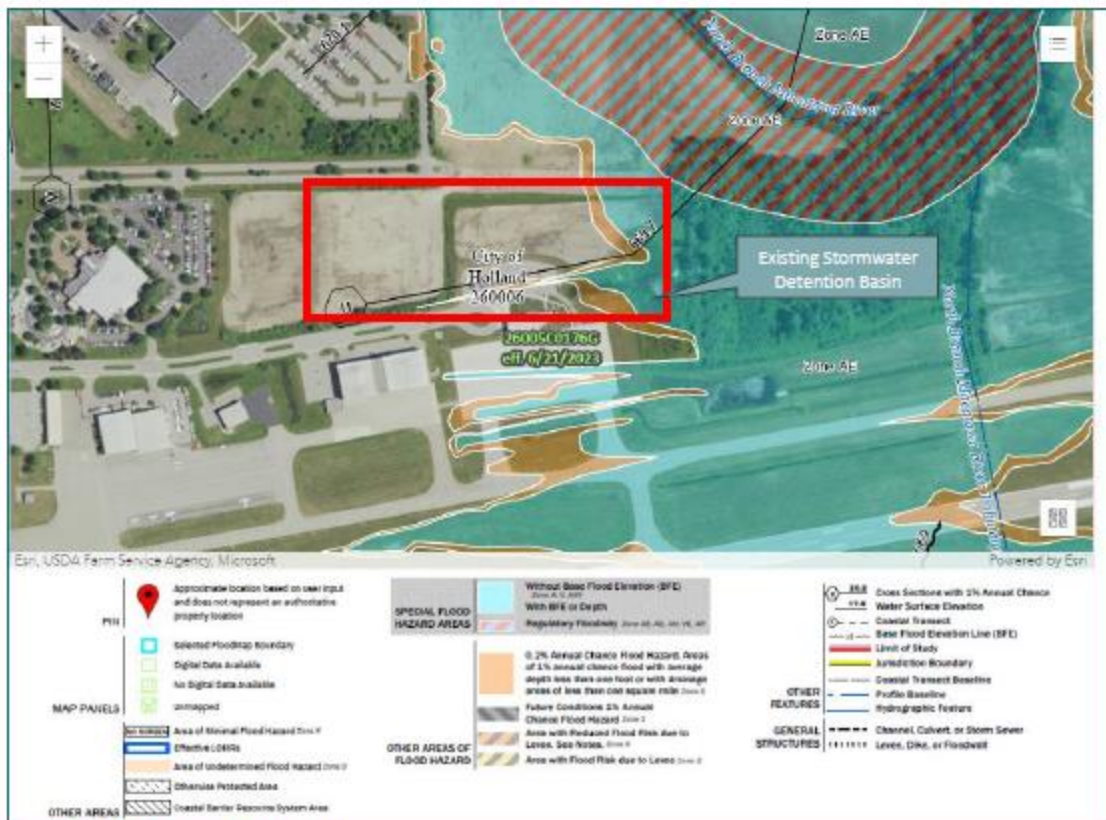


Figure 2 – FEMA Flood Hazard Map

### Findings

Upon review, no significant impacts to the Tulip have been identified presuming the site will be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Holland Stormwater Ordinance and the Tulip Watershed Policy Statement.

The draft Short Form EA should be updated to include the most recent FEMA map that shows the influence of the 100-year floodplain. Fill within the Tulip floodplain must be mitigated under the Tulip Watershed Policy Statement. A Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) permit may also be required.

Ms. Denise Medemar  
August 10, 2023

Fishbeck | Page 3

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 616.464.3947 or [ceschwartz@fishbeck.com](mailto:ceschwartz@fishbeck.com).

Sincerely,

FISHBECK, INC.



Claire E. Schwartz, PE

By email

Copy: Mr. Joe Bush – Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner  
Mr. Michael Gregg – Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Mr. William Ballard, AICP – Mead & Hunt, Inc.

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Email**

Hello William,

Thank you for passing along the draft short form EA for the proposed hanger and taxilane expansion at West Michigan Regional Airport. The assessment states that there will be no impacts to the 100-year floodplain of North Branch Macatawa River, but the FEMA maps appear to intersect with the eastern portion of the project (see attached Firmette for the project location). If you believe the work is outside the regulated floodplain, please provide detailed maps and drawings showing that the work is outside the 100-year floodplain or above the elevation of 669.7-feet.

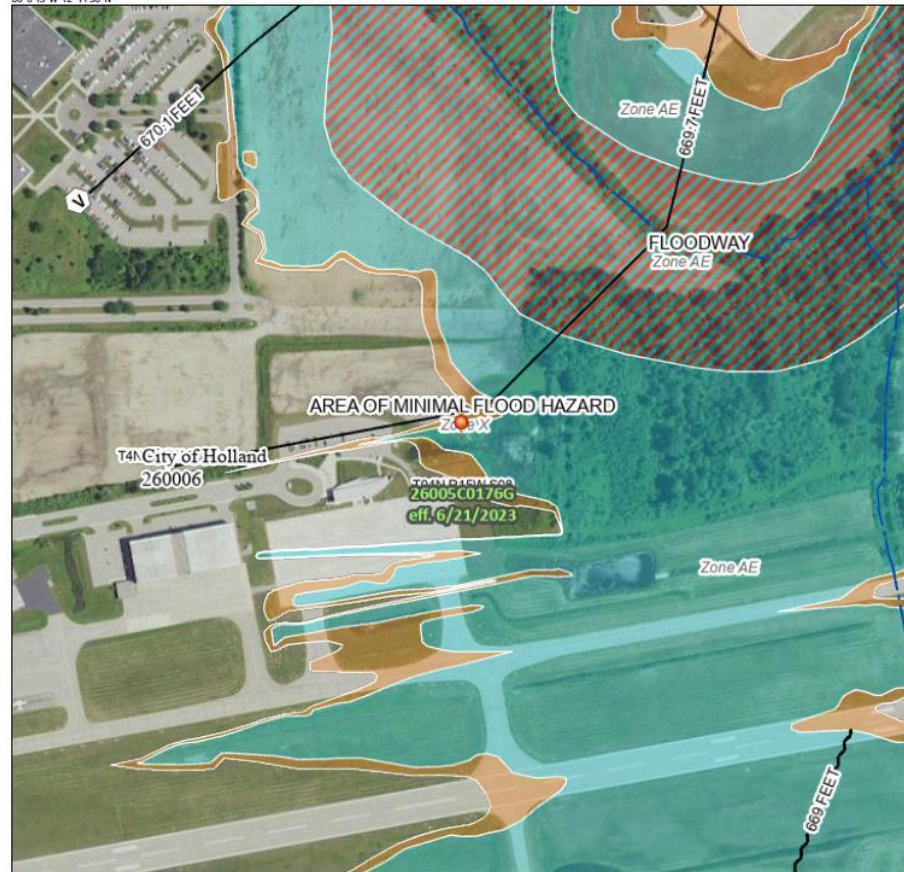
Let us know if you have any questions,

Ben Johnson  
 Water Resources Division – Transportation Review Unit  
 Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
 Cell: 616-295-2787  
 Email: [johnsonb67@michigan.gov](mailto:johnsonb67@michigan.gov)  
<http://mi.gov/egletransportationreview>

**National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette**



86°6'45" W 42°44'58" N



**Legend**

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, V, AE, AH</i>
		With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i>
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile. <i>Zone X</i>
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes, <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee. <i>Zone D</i>
OTHER AREAS		Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i>
		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
OTHER FEATURES		Coastal Transect Baseline
		Profile Baseline
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 8/10/2023 at 12:50 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023





GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
GRAND RAPIDS



PHILIP ROOS  
DIRECTOR

August 16, 2023

VIA EMAIL

William Ballard, AICP  
Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
2605 Port Lansing Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Dear William Ballard:

SUBJECT: Request for Comment on Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment  
West Michigan Regional Airport  
Allegan County, Michigan

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has completed your July 18, 2023, request for comment regarding the Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment (EA) for West Michigan Regional Airport located in Holland, Michigan.

The proposed project (Build Alternative 3) includes:

- Construct initial infrastructure for the future full build-out of private and corporate hangers north of the Geurink Avenue.
- Construct a 50-foot wide by approximately 1,400-foot long taxiway to connect the proposed hanger park to the existing hanger complex. The taxiway would cross the western section of the detention pond.
- Enclose and reroute approximately 1,300 feet of drainage ditch through a series of 48-inch concrete pipes.
- Expand the existing stormwater detention pond to the north and west by approximately 0.6 acres.

EGLE has the following comments:

- 1) The project, as proposed in the EA, will NOT require a permit under Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, and Part 303 Wetlands Protection of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). The existing stormwater drainage ditches were constructed in upland, so any impacts to them will NOT be regulated under Part 303.

- 2) If the project intersects with the 100-year floodplain of the north branch Macatawa River and work occurs below the elevation of 669.7-feet, then a permit will be required under the Floodplain Regulatory Authority of Part 31, Water Resources, of the NREPA. The FEMA FIRMette for the area shows the floodplain extending throughout the detention pond and the northeastern corner of the property.
- 3) A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit will be required for storm water discharges associated with construction activities in accordance with Rule 2190 promulgated in accordance with Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the NREPA.
- 4) A permit will be required under Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the NREPA. Part 91 permits are generally issued by the county or, in some instances, the local municipality.
- 5) A review of our database indicates no occurrences of State and/or Federal Threatened and Endangered species in the project location. However, your project location is within the range of the Northern Long Eared Bat and Indiana Bat, which are considered potentially present wherever suitable habitat exists within their range. You should consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service prior to performing work or applying for permits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EA. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 616-295-2787, [Johnsonb67@michigan.gov](mailto:Johnsonb67@michigan.gov), or at Grand Rapids District Office, 350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Sincerely,



Ben Johnson  
Transportation Review Unit  
Water Resources Division

cc: James Watling, EGLE

**List of agencies who received the Draft Short Form EA for review and comment**

Salutation line	Contact Name	Title	Organization	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone or Email
Mr. Duffney	Tony Duffney	State Director	USDA - APHIS Wildlife Services	2803 Jolly Road, Suite 100	Okemos, MI 48864	517-336-1928
Mr. Watling	Jim Watling	Supervisor	EGLE, Water Resources Division, Transportation Review Unit	P.O. Box 30458	Lansing, MI 48909-7958	517-599-9002
Mr. Simon	Charlie Simon	Chief	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, Regulatory & Permits	477 Michigan Avenue, Room 603	Detroit, MI 48226-2550	313-226-2218
Mr. Sivak	Thomas Sivak	Regional Administrator	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 5	536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor	Chicago, Illinois 60605	312-408-5500
Ms. Gagliardo	Jean Gagliardo	District Conservationist	USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Portage Service Center	5950 PORTAGE RD	PORTAGE, MI 49002	269-382-5121 ext 3
Mr. Hicks	Scott Hicks	Field Office Supervisor	US Fish and Wildlife - Michigan Field Office	2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101	East Lansing, Michigan 48823	517-351-6274
Mr. Westlake	Kenneth Westlake	Chief	EPA Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	77 West Jackson Boulevard	Chicago, Illinois 60604	312-886-2910
Ms. Lott	Shannon Lott	Natural Resources Deputy	Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Executive Division	P.O. Box 30028	Lansing, MI 48909	517-243-3166/517-284-5810
<b>Local &amp; Political Coordination - Master List</b>						
Mr. Van Beek	Keith Van Beek	City Manager	City of Holland	270 S River Avenue, 2nd Floor	Holland, MI 49423	616-355-1310
Mr. White	Brian White	City Engineer	City of Holland	333 Wyngarden Way	Holland, MI 49423	616-928-2400
Ms. Medemar	Denise Medemar	Drain Commissioner	Allegan County	113 Chestnut Street	Allegan, MI 49010	269-673-0440
Dr. Gerard	Jim Gerard	Township Supervisor	Park Township	52-152nd Avenue	Holland, MI 49423	616-738-4232
Mr. Klunder	Tim Klunder	City Manager	City of Zeeland	21 S. Elm Street	Zeeland, MI 49464	616-772-6400
Mr. Shay	John Shay	County Administrator	Ottawa County	12220 Fillmore Street Room 310	West Olive, MI 49460	616-738-4898