

DR. BETH NEARY 11/3/19

Here is that I wrote in my comments to Air Force:

Questions on methodology... 1) Because night awakenings are measured from 10Pm -7AM, this will underestimate the real number as it does not include shift workers who sleep during the day and infants and toddlers who nap multiple times/each day. There are 15 daycares in the affected area. 2) Did you accurately measure the number of affected children and infants as population increased by 18% from 2000-2016. Did you use current census info or it is from 2010? Also, there was an increase in number of low income homes build by Truax in the last few years. 3) Day night average does not measure the impulse sound that is the most damaging to the ear. The noise created by the F-35s is an impulse sound — a brief, very loud noise. Impulse noise causes more severe hearing loss than steady state noise. The body has a reflex mechanism which protects the ear when exposed to loud, continuous noise. The reflex is slow, and thus does not provide protection to the ear against sudden impulsive sounds. Hence, the average day-night noise exposure (DNL) measured over a 24-hour period in the draft EIS does not measure the true impact of noise on children.

Unanswered questions: In a previous EIS from 2013, you provided information on use of flares as well as a chart that compares SEL and Lmax for F-16 and F-35A . Can we get similar information? Would there be supersonic flights? Can we get data on that? Will supersonic flights be conducted below 15,000 feet? Will flares be used? What are the chemicals, coatings and other materials used in flares? Can you assure us that if Teflon (which contains PFAS) is used that it will be appropriately discarded? We already have an issue with PFAS in the airport area and a city well has been closed due to contamination.

Comments on data. The full impact on infants and children and developing fetus is underestimated - Infants cannot remove themselves from sound, nor can they hold their hands up to shield their ears. The narrow ear canals of children make sound louder. The harmful effects of loud, impulsive sounds has a growing body of evidence. In adults, it is related to increased stress hormones, increases in blood pressure, and effects on cardiovascular disease. In children, it can cause delayed speech development, reduced attention and concentration and decreased math and reading comprehension. In pregnant woman, excessive loud sounds contributes to decreased birth weight.

Based upon the information, I humbly request that you consider another location which does not have this great of an impact on a population that already deals with poverty and other challenging issues.

Hope this helps.

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