



TEXAS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

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BE AWARE – FACT SHEET

“...most dangerous airport in North America...”

SAFETY ADVISORY – What your neighbors and technical experts want you to know about JetPort Airport (Waller County)

Proposed Airport:

- JetPort location is the Air Rice airport in Waller County between Brookshire and Katy

Proposed Location:

- Less than 3 miles from Katy High School, Royal High School and Royal Elementary School, Exxon-Mobil Katy Gas Plant, communities in Katy and Brookshire, and I-10.
- Construction could begin near the corner of Highway 90 and FM2855
- Close to I-10, railroads, and Grand Parkway

Airport Usage:

- ➔ Private funding for public use. Airport operation could reportedly expand to handle Boeing 737 cargo jets (perhaps more than 50 operated by major shipping companies)

Those on record who favor public safety, oppose the airport (list incomplete):

- ❖ City of Katy, Katy Chamber of Commerce, West Houston Chamber of Commerce, Katie Prairie Conservancy, Texas Committee on Natural Resources, Waller County Commissioner Louis Canales (Prec. 4), Remington Trails Homeowners Association,

Safety and Community Concerns:

- ➔ **Bird strike, mechanical failure, weather conditions, an/or terrorist-type activity causing engine failure, explosion, or plane crashes** that would impact communities and schools on the ground
- ➔ U.S. Air Force Bird Strike Hazard Team (Major Ron Merrit, 2002) evaluation of a site close to JetPort's found it "...would have been the **most dangerous in North America** due to bird strike dangers posed by migratory waterfowl." R. DeFusco, now with BASH Inc. Bird Hazard and Wildlife Management Consultants recommended **no airport should be located in southern Waller County**, but relocated closer to Highway 290 at Hempstead
- ➔ **Environmental Assessment** (Chuck Willis, 2001/2002) by Waller County and the Federal Aviation Administration confirmed these findings and recommended an airport location by Prairie View
- ➔ Private funding (Ron Henricksen) **does not trigger the requirement to assess dangers to the public or environment**. Previous proposals (Westside and Waller County) involved public funds, required an environmental impact statement be done, and resulted in stopping those airports.
- ➔ Katy Prairie is a 200,000-acre ecosystem and the **major bird migratory Central Flyway system in North America**. Katy Prairie Conservancy worked with residents, nonprofits and government entities to permanently protect 17,000-acres, including a preserve of 152 acres 1 mile east of the site.
- ➔ **NOISE nuisance** The landing and take-off patterns use a 5-mile banking radius and 6-mile drop zone, placing planes and noise over schools and homes. It will disturb students during classes and while taking tests. Residents near Bush Intercontinental Airport could not sleep and their windows violently shook as planes were near
- ➔ **Loss of Wetlands would increase flooding; floodwaters could harm area water wells**

Public Comment can be made to the Federal Aviation Administration, ben.guttery@faa.gov, until March 7 reference FAA Application 2005-ASW-3-NRA.

U.S. Congressman Michael McCall represents this district –Fax comments to him at (Austin) 512-473-0514 and (Washington) 202-225-5955 Attn: Gene Irisari, Austin phone number is 512-473-2357.

Your Homeowners Associations and community leaders that are working on this need your help.

For additional information contact: Chris Spentator at csag_tconr@yahoo.com (713) 725-9421