



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20330-1000

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

SAF/IE  
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Washington, DC 20330-1665

Mr. James A Dumont, Esq., P.C.  
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Mr. Dumont:

I am responding on behalf of the Acting Secretary of the Air Force to your letter of August 29, 2019, in which you requested the Air Force prepare a supplement to the F-35A Operational Basing Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) of September 2013 and stay the F-35A basing at the Burlington International Airport (BIA) until the supplement is completed.

The Air Force has determined that the F-35A FEIS is accurate with respect to afterburner use by the Air National Guard's (ANG) 158th Fighter Wing. There is neither a change in the proposed action or significant new information which would require the Air Force to prepare a supplement to the FEIS, nor a reason to stay the F-35A operational basing at BIA.

Operational basing of the F-35A at BIA is in process, and upon completion of the operational basing, the 158th Fighter Wing does not intend to fly more than 5% of its take-offs with afterburner as analyzed in the FEIS. An examination of the local flying conditions continues to support this position. The 158th Fighter Wing will continue to participate in BIA's noise mapping and update to the extent required by the BIA manager, airport noise compatibility planning.

The Air Force takes its on-going duty to follow up on its predicted impacts identified in EISs seriously and will continue tracking to ensure that mitigations and management actions achieve their intended outcomes. The use of afterburners is tracked as part of the ongoing 158th Fighter Wing's monitoring program. The Air Force remains committed to a cooperative process and will continue to seek FAA and BIA input.

Respectfully,

  
JOHN W. HENDERSON, P.E.  
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force  
(Installations, Environment & Energy)

cc:  
AF/A3T/A4C