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July 8, 2015

Attn: Mr. Michael Nordquist / Ms. Joanne Mullowney, Co-Chair Environmental Commission Township of Ewing 2 Jake Garzio Drive Ewing, NJ 08628

Re: Trenton-Mercer Airport

NEPA Environmental Assessment for Runway Protection

Zones and Obstruction Mitigation

**Environmental Scoping** 

File: 280.008.002

Dear Mr. Norquist and Ms. Mullowney:

On behalf of Mercer County, C&S Engineers, Inc., is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) incompatible land uses and mitigate obstructions at Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN) in the Township of Ewing, New Jersey. The EA will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with obtaining control of the runway protection zones (RPZs) to remove obstructions and address incompatible land uses and mitigation of identified obstructions to the navigable airspace surrounding TTN. Since the proposed project will involve funding and approvals from federal, state, and local agencies, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review is necessary to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements to assess impacts associated with airport development projects. The FAA is the NEPA lead agency for the proposed project.

An aeronautical survey and subsequent obstruction evaluation have been performed utilizing FAA guidelines. As a result of these studies, objects that affect the navigable airspace surrounding Trenton-Mercer Airport have been identified and are shown on the attached Scoping Map #1 (Figure 1). The obstructions include trees, residences, utility poles, roads, terrain, airport fencing, a railroad, an antenna, cell towers, and buildings located on and off airport property. Please note that the attached scoping map shows all objects that were identified as obstructions by the obstruction evaluation. Alternatives, mitigation measures, and/or removal plans have not yet been developed. Mitigation measures may vary from the complete removal of individual trees, to selective clearing and grubbing of vegetated areas, crown reduction (tree topping); lowering, removing, or burying utilities, acquisition of residential parcels, or lighting and marking.

The obstruction evaluation also identified portions of the RPZs that extend off airport property and contain incompatible land uses (see attached Figure 2). The incompatible land uses include residential dwellings, public roads, railroads, a golf course, school

athletic fields, and a cemetery. Alternatives and mitigation measures have not yet been developed with regard to the identified incompatible land uses.

It is anticipated review and/or approvals may be required from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), National Park Service (NPS), and the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission (DRCC).

We are requesting that your agency provide information regarding the following Environmental Impact Categories, taken from FAA Order 5050.4B National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions and FAA Order 1050.1E Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures as they may relate to the proposed project within the limits of the study area shown on Figure 3. The categories are listed in the table below:

Air Quality	Light Emissions & Visual Impacts
Coastal Resources	Natural Resources & Energy Supply
Compatible Land Use	Noise
Construction Impacts	Secondary (Induced) Impacts
Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)	Socioeconomic Impacts
Farmlands	Environmental Justice
Fish, Wildlife, and Plants	Children's Environmental Health & Safety Risks
Floodplains	Water Quality
Hazardous Materials, Pollution Prevention, & Solid Waste	Wetlands
Historic, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources	Wild & Scenic Rivers

As part of the EA, technical studies and reports will be conducted/prepared that include the following:

- Phase IA Cultural Resources Survey
- Acoustic Survey for Indiana Bats and Northern long-eared bats. Mist Net Survey and Telemetry tracking if needed to confirm positive results of Acoustic Survey.
- Habitat Assessment for state species
- Section 4(f) Analysis
- Wetlands delineation and vernal habitat survey

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In order to maintain the schedule for environmental planning for this project, we would appreciate a response to this inquiry by August 10, 2015. If we do not hear from you by that date, we will assume that you have no comments. If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact Christen Craig at (315) 455-2000, or by e-mail at ccraig@cscos.com. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours, C&S ENGINEERS, INC.

Christen M. Craig

Senior Project Environmental Scientist

Phristen M. Crang

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cc: Environmental Distribution List