FAA Noise Policy Review – Background

- The FAA invites public comments from interested individuals, entities, and other parties to review four key considerations of its civil aviation noise policy, ***in the context of noise metrics and noise thresholds.***
- Number of people exposed to DNL 65 or above in the U.S. has declined from 7 million in the 1970's to just ~400,000 today
  - *In the eyes of the public, however, aircraft noise and its impact on people continues to be a major source of concern.*
- *NES Confirmed this:*
  - The FAA explained that the Neighborhood Environmental Survey updated the FAA's understanding of the dose-response relationship between exposure to aircraft noise and community annoyance. The NES showed that a higher percentage of people were "highly annoyed" by aircraft noise across all levels of noise exposure that were studied.
- In response to that feedback, the FAA initiated a review (noise policy review or NPR) of its civil aviation noise policy (policy).
- The NPR provides an opportunity to determine whether, and if so, how, to update the policy in response to these and other research findings described in the January 13, 2021 notice.

Supplementary Information

- First, the FAA is reviewing research on the effects of exposure to aviation noise, including the correlation of exposure to aviation noise with adverse health impacts, economic impacts, and annoyance.
- Second, the FAA is reviewing its standard noise metric that describes exposure to aircraft noise, and potential revisions to the choice of standard metric(s).
- Third, the FAA is reviewing its definition of the threshold of significant noise exposure for actions analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to determine if that threshold remains appropriate or requires revision.
- Last, the FAA is examining the level of aircraft noise exposure below which land uses are considered “normally compatible” with airport operations, as that term is defined in the regulations implementing the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979. This includes consideration of the criteria for application of noise mitigation measures to address adverse noise exposure in areas that the FAA currently considers to be “normally compatible” with airport operations under FAA's regulations.

https://www.regulations.gov/document/FAA-2023-0855-0001

FAA Noise Policy Review

FAA Seeks Input on 11 Categories for Noise Policy Review

- FAA requests commenters identify the number of each question to which a response is submitted (comments not limited to these categories):
    1. Vehicle Type (e.g., fixed wing, rotor wing, supersonic, drones)
    2. Operations (e.g., takeoff, landing, circuits)
    3. DNL
    4. Averaging
    5. Decision-making noise metrics
    6. Communication
    7. NEPA/Land Use Noise Thresholds
    8. FAA Noise Thresholds Using Single-Event or Operational Metrics
    9. FAA Noise Thresholds for Low-Frequency Events
    10. Miscellaneous (other issues FAA should consider)
    11. Literature Review

Summary

- The FAA invites public comments to review four key considerations of its civil aviation noise policy
  - In the context of noise metrics and noise thresholds
- The civil aviation noise policy sets forth how the FAA analyzes, explains, and publicly presents changes in noise exposure from aviation activity

- FAA will hold four virtual public meetings:
  1. Tuesday, May 16, 2023; 1 to 3 pm ET
  2. Thursday, May 18 2023; 6 to 8 pm ET
  3. Tuesday, May 23, 2023; 9 to 11 pm ET
  4. Thursday, May 25, 2023; 3 to 5 pm ET

- Public may send comments using any of the following methods:
  - Federal eRulemaking Portal https://www.regulations.gov
  - Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation
    1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
    Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor
    Washington, DC 20590-0001
  - In-person delivery at: Docket Operations in Room W12-140 (address above)
  - Fax: (202) 493-2251

- **Get involved by submitting comments to the Federal Register Notice**

  Comment period runs May 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023

  For more information see:

  www.faa.gov/noisepolicyreview