



Quietskies

Over San Juan County

Update: February 8, 2017

WE HAVE: 15 days to send in comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Deadline is February 24. Is it important to do it? YES!

HERE ARE 3 SIMPLE WAYS TO COMMENT "QUICKLY":

1. U.S POSTAL SERVICE: Go to <http://www.quietskies.info/eis-process-2016-17> to print the US MAIL document. Print it. Fill in the form. Mail it. DONE!

2. ONLINE: Go to <http://whidbeyeis.com/Comment.aspx>. Fill in your contact information. Then copy and paste the eleven comments that Quietskies has developed into the Comments section. Or, write your own comments with reference to specific sections of the DEIS. The eleven comments suggested by Quietskies can be found on page three of this Update. Press submit. DONE!

3. THIS ONE IS FUN: Go to "Pachamama" - Callie North's new store in Lopez Village (NEXT TO VORTEX). There you will find Comments all ready for your name and address in a pre-addressed, stamped envelope. All you have to do is fill it out, and pop it in the mail! DONE!

DO YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

* Should we write our feelings and concerns?

Actually NO. We are in the Draft phase of the Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Comments need to address specific problems with references which support our statements. Saying that "we don't like the Growlers" is basically useless.

BUT! HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS:

QUIET SKIES has combed through the DEIS and has created 11 comments with supporting references. It would be good if we -ALL- sent in all eleven. See page three of this Update.

* I wrote my comments at the Navy meeting. Do I need to do it again?

YES. Since the meeting, new information has surfaced. It would be so helpful if we all sent in the 11 comments that are attached below.

* Is it OK to copy and paste all 11 comments? Won't we all be saying the same thing?

Yes we will. At this point the Navy will be sorting comments by subject. Subjects that get more comments may get further study. So, if we all copy and paste - all 11 comments - THIS IS A GOOD THING.

* If I have a comment - not on the list of Eleven, should I send it?

Absolutely! You may have discovered an area Quiet Skies has missed. Let us know what it is and we will share it with the wider community.

To see what others have written, check out the letters found on the lower right of this webpage:
<http://www.quietskies.info/eis-process-2016-17>

* Is it better to enter comments online or by USPS?

The goal is to send the comments in - all eleven - if possible! It might be easier for the Navy to receive ONLINE
- But - U.S.Mail is fine.

* What are we hoping to accomplish by sending in the comments?

THERE IS A GOAL: Comment #11 addresses it (see Comments on page three.).

The DEIS is flawed. We are hoping that the Navy will be forced to produce a revised Draft which will address all the deficient areas and will require further comments before the Final EIS is prepared.

THERE IS ONE MORE GOAL: If the Navy ignores the comments, there could be a law suit. To have standing (the ability to participate), you must have submitted a comment in the DRAFT STAGE.

So, Please, take a few minutes, send in your comments. Don't wait for the NEW DEADLINE of February 24 - DO IT NOW!

The Navy is counting on the fact that we won't comment. Spread the word!

MORE QUESTIONS? www.quietskies.info

OTHER NEWS

COUNTY WEBSITE NOISE REPORTS: 6,753 TO DATE! Keep them coming!!! They are sent monthly to legislators and the Navy. This is a significant way to stand up and be heard. For tips on how to do this, go to:

<http://www.quietskies.info/access-the-county-report-site>

The latest data on the Jet Noise reports can be found at <http://www.quietskies.info/county-website-data-summaries>

The graphs help us understand what's going on and the comments capture the real story that we are all living through.

DAHR JAMAIL'S LATEST STORY on Navy Noise in our Region.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/39247-how-much-noise-can-a-person-survive-navy-jets-plague-the-lives-of-washington-residents>

Thanks to each one of you.

Go to the next page for the DEIS COMMENTS.....

1. The Growler is known for its intense low frequency engine rumble, but low frequency noise impacts are ignored in the Draft. ACTION: Evaluate impacts of the Growler at low frequencies using C-weighting (dBC) in addition to A-weighting (dBA).
2. Analysis of noise impacts in the Draft is based solely on computer simulation. To be valid for decision making, models must be verified. ACTION: Provide the data used for simulation. Provide Growler noise measurements with afterburners at 100 feet behind the jet in one-third octave bands from 6 Hz to 20 kHz. Calibrate the computer model with actual noise measurements in locations throughout the region.
3. NOISEMAP is the computer model used in the Draft to predict noise impacts. A Department of Defense report found that NOISEMAP is outdated and new software was needed to provide “scientifically and legally defensible noise assessments” of the modern, high-thrust jet engines used in the Growlers. ACTION: Redo the noise simulation using the more recent Advanced Acoustic Model.
4. The annual Day-Night Noise Level (DNL) metric used in the Draft was developed for commercial airports that operate 365 days a year. DNL is inappropriate for the intermittent but intensive military flight activity at NASWI. Averaging over the year assumes, without studies, that the quiet days mitigate the noisy days. ACTION: Noise levels should only be averaged over active flying days.
5. The Draft dismisses long-term health impacts of jet noise because some studies are not conclusive. ACTION: Recognize the impacts of Growler noise on health as documented in the World Health Organization "Guidelines on Community Noise" and "Night Noise Guidelines for Europe."
6. The Draft includes some independent noise measurements and ignores others. ACTION: Incorporate the San Juan County noise reports and the Coupeville noise measurements performed by JGL Acoustics into the EIS analysis.
7. The Draft suggests that the lands and waters of the San Juan Islands (SJI) National Monument are exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) protection. Protection was granted prior to the establishment of the SJI National Monument. ACTION: Evaluate impacts of the Alternatives on the SJI National Monument and remove language stating that the Monument is exempt from NEPA.
8. The three Alternatives considered in the Draft are very similar and are based on old technology – a piloted jet that requires constant pilot training for safe carrier landing. ACTION: Evaluate a new Alternative that deploys UCLASS jets (drones) instead of more Growlers to significantly reduce the need for land-based carrier training.
9. The Draft only examines socioeconomic impacts on Island and Skagit Counties. San Juan, Jefferson and Clallam Counties are or will be impacted by Growler noise. They are very dependent on outdoor recreation that is being harmed by Growler flight activity and receive little, if any, economic benefit from employment associated with NASWI. ACTION: Examine socioeconomic impacts, including real estate values, on San Juan, Jefferson and Clallam Counties.
10. All Alternatives in the Draft are irrevocable decisions to add 35 or 36 Growlers at NASWI. While some potential noise Mitigation Measures addressed, there is no commitment. ACTION: Commit to noise Mitigation Measures and their timelines in the Final EIS and Record of Decision.
11. The Draft EIS analysis is deficient in numerous areas. CEQ Regulation 1502.9 (a) states “If a draft statement is so inadequate as to preclude meaningful analysis, the agency shall prepare and circulate a revised draft of the appropriate portion.” ACTION: Supplement the EIS to address deficiencies identified in comments and offer further opportunity for public comment before the Final EIS is prepared.