

Comments on major flaws in 2016 Environmental Assessment

- They have not established any real need for the expansion, in terms of documented economic loss supported by evidence, to current airport users.
- The expansion would only benefit a very small number of airport users -- the vast majority are small, single-engine planes -- while opening the door to larger and heavier jets, posing risks to the surrounding community.
- The expanded runway would pose risks to residents around the airport, with planes landing just 93 feet over some homes, in an area heavily populated with Canada geese. This risk far exceeds any gain an expanded runway could provide.
- Canada geese are one of the greatest risks to airplanes flying at low altitudes, as those of us who saw the movie "Sully" last year, or who knew the story of the tragedy on the Hudson River, already knew. We do not want a similar accident to happen here!
- The Assessment said no Canada geese have been observed at the airport or in the farm field west of the airport, and when they have been observed in Stonebridge ponds it has been in groups "less than 10 total." The report concludes no hazardous wildlife exist. This is nonsense. In response, please discuss the large numbers of Canada geese in and around your areas, in Stonebridge ponds, and the frequency of their visits. (If you have a good photo of large numbers of Canada geese on the ponds or in the cornfield, please send it as an attachment with the date.)
- Details on the safety of the drinking water wells on the airport property are eight years old. The wells provide 15-20% of Ann Arbor's drinking water. In those years a lot has happened: the Gelman dioxane risk to the Huron River (Ann Arbor's only other drinking water source), on top of Flint's tragedy, makes protecting these wells all the more important. Any accident or fuel spill -- most airplane fuel sold at the airport for the most popular plane there contains lead -- could be disastrous. Plus, the aquifer also supplies ponds throughout Pittsfield, Lodi, and elsewhere, so this is a clean water issue for all of us. Emphasize the need to thoroughly study this is critical.