

Rec'd 2/24/14

From: Joe Worley  
To: Jeff Voigt  
Subject: FW: Edgar County Airport Fuel Tank Installation and Apron Expansion  
Date: Thu, Feb 20, 2014 1:58 pm

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Jeff,

Below is the response from Alan Mlacnik (IDOT-Aeronautics) resulting from my conversation with him this morning.

Thank you.

Joe

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From: Mlacnik, Alan D [mailto:[Alan.Mlacnik@illinois.gov](mailto:Alan.Mlacnik@illinois.gov)]  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 1:36 PM  
To: Joe Worley  
Cc: Paden, Scott P; Ragsdale, Charlie W; Long, Steven J; Borus, Richard A  
Subject: Edgar County Airport Fuel Tank Installation and Apron Expansion

Joe,

As I indicated to you on the phone, IDOT has been inundated with inquiries regarding the Edgar County Airport, accusations of mismanagement and fraud, and the affect this will have on currently programmed projects. From the Department's perspective, I can offer the following on the status of the currently programmed projects moving forward:

The state of Illinois requires fuel sales at all of its 80 public-use airports. Edgar County Airport currently has one existing 8,000 gallon tank along with two smaller installations used for retail dispensing of aircraft fuel. The Office of the State Fire Marshall allows up to two 10,000 gallon tank installations per airport. The majority of Illinois' 70 general aviation airports have two 10,000 gallon tanks (one each for 100LL and Jet A fuel). This list includes Mattoon, Effingham, Robinson, Olney, Flora, Lawrenceville and Danville (to name a few)... all are similarly sized general aviation airports with similar traffic located in IDOT District 5 & 7.

The proposed 10,000 gallon fuel tank in question was requested by the Edgar County Airport and programmed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) in federal fiscal year 2013. The two smaller tanks are considered inconsequential in the analysis of the need for a new 10,000 gallon tank. They will ultimately be removed as part of the new tank installation project and turned over to the airport for repurposing, sale or discarded.

The new fuel tank is eligible for federal non-primary entitlement (NPE) funding and will be used for retail dispensing of aircraft fuel upon installation. The project is 90% funded with federal NPE Airport Improvement Program funds totaling \$297,000. The remaining 10% of the budget is required to be matched by Edgar County... for a total project budget of \$330,000. This project will be local-let. We will not write a "grant" to the County for this project, but instead administer project payments from our federal State Block Grant Program directly to the County as reimbursements for verifiable, eligible, documented expenditures.

The airport currently has no other immediate needs that would require the NPE funds that are proposed for the tank, and therefore the County is within their rights under FAA rules to request and install an additional tank. Scott Paden will be the point of contact for this project (217-785-5564).

The current apron at the airport is nearing capacity based on the analysis and historical eye witness accounts by IDOT staff. The additional apron space is justified and warranted by the presence of the tanks and the anticipation of increased fueling activity resulting from 24-hour card access. An enhanced movement area for fueling operations that is separate from the east apron aircraft parking area will allow pilots to more safely maneuver and fuel aircraft. This project will be administered through the normal IDOT-let process. The budget is \$586,600 and requires a 5% local match. Charlie Ragsdale will be the point of contact for this project (217-785-4925).

The information submitted by the County and Hanson relative to the programming of both projects may have irregularities and inaccuracies, but I never believed it rose to the level of fraud, nor would revised submittals substantially change the outcome of the program. Regardless of the application information provided by the County and Hanson, installation of a second tank is both eligible and permitted. In fact, when circumstances permit, such revenue-producing developments are encouraged in an effort to comply with federal grant assurances (specifically those related to financial sustainability).

It is my understanding that the Edgar County Board recently voted to continue to proceed with the tank installation and apron expansion project. It is the intent of the Department to initiate preliminary design work and develop the Agency Agreement later this year. Please advise of the Board's direction in this matter.

We look forward to meeting and working with the new members of the Edgar County Board and airport management to complete these projects. Please don't hesitate to call if questions or further clarification is needed.

Thanks.

**Alan Mlacnik, P.E.**  
**Section Chief, Aviation Systems and Programs**

**Acting Section Chief, Design**  
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