MEPA Team email template

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Dear MEPA Team, Director, Deputy Director,

We have been referred to you by the Massachusetts Inspector General's office to inform you of and raise concerns over activities and proposed expansion of them in our area that are critically detrimental to the environment, our families health and lives.  The OIG is looking into the potential fraud, waste and abuse aspects of the situation.  They recommended we contact you to address the environmental aspects.

After years of frustrating attempts to address this with the Town of Norwood and the Airport commission and flight schools, with zero response, only stonewalling and ignoring of our complaints.  We are asking for your engagement and action.   Our Town of Canton select board is engaging, requests have gone out to our state representatives for assistance as well.

Please see note below, the attached documents and the following website for additional details.

<https://nomassairnoise.org/>

We are asking for your investigation and appropriate action on the issues outlined below.

Thank you for your attention to this issue

There are numerous similar if not identical issues affecting communities at other small airports around the state.  Some litigation is in process against the flight schools for their environmentally detrimental operation as well by residents of other towns.   We believe bills  are either in process in our state that are relevant as well, including requirements for comprehensive environmental impact assessments.  We are wondering how this applies to our local situation with the Norwood Airport operation and expansion?

We are asking you as our state Environmental team to please help us protect our children, families and hard earned quality of life.

All the Best

[ YOUR NAME HERE]

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[Your Name]

[Your Address]

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MEPA Office

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Dear MEPA Team,

We are writing to request your urgent attention to the inequitable and hazardous impacts of Norwood Memorial Airport’s operations on the Town of Canton, Massachusetts. Our community faces daily exposure to low-altitude repetitive overflights that generate both disruptive aircraft noise and toxic lead emissions.

Children at our Kennedy and Hansen Elementary schools, our local playgrounds, children’s sports fields and our homes are directly in the path of these flights. Yet no comprehensive noise study has been conducted since 1997 and has not included Canton or the surrounding towns. To our knowledge, no lead or environmental pollution study has ever been performed.

Repetitive Noise and lead pollution impacts have been shown to severely impact us, children are particularly at risk. Increased Lead pollution has been found within 1500 feet of the operation of small aircraft.  Please see citations below.  All these low-level repetitive flights are well under 1500 feet and directly over our families. (800-1100 feet)

These over flights are the same aircraft, sometimes 3-4 at the same time in succession, causing a steady stream of noise and lead contamination raining down on us. They begin at 8 AM in the morning and go well into the night 10 PM and on occasion after midnight. This has a severe impact on our quality of health and life, it’s increasing!

The town of Norwood Massachusetts operating the Airport has worked with the FAA to create flight paths to mitigate overflights of aircraft for itself (the town of Norwood) and to direct the aircraft to overfly Canton Massachusetts and the surrounding towns!  Hundreds of complaints have been filed, requests to modify the flight paths made, all with no response. There is more than adequate non-residential space in our area to redesign the airports flight paths to mitigate the issues for all.

Additionally, the Airport has plans to expand operations, increasing the noise and lead pollution on our residents. This expansion project’s grant has been covertly processed without proper noise or lead impact studies, without knowledge or engagement of the surrounding towns residents.

We urge your offices to assist by :

·       STOPPING all expansion project related funding for the Norwood Memorial airport. Enforce transparency and mandate surrounding towns inclusion in any future airport expansions.

·       Immediately engage the FAA to mandate equitable flight routing that does not place repetitive low-level flights over our residential areas, schools and playgrounds, destroying our environment.

·       Demand updated comprehensive and independent FAA. EPA and MassDOT and MEPA studies on environmental noise and lead pollution relative to the operation of the Norwood Memorial Airport and its aircraft (they must include Canton Massachusetts)

·       Immediately mandate that the Norwood Memorial Airport’s management board include equal representation from all Airport impacted surrounding towns.

·       Provide federal oversight and accountability to ensure our children’s health and our residents’ quality of life are protected. This must come first relative to any airport use, why do we have a local municipal airport if it's not for the benefit of the surrounding community?

Canton families deserve fairness, transparency, and protection from man-made environmental harm. We respectfully ask for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

       Your Constituent of Canton Massachusetts

[YOUR NAME]