



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
AND ASSESSMENT

September 14, 2016

Ms. Leslie A. Grey
Environmental Protection Specialist AAL-614
Federal Aviation Administration
Alaskan Region, Airports Division
222 W. 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7587

Dear Ms. Grey:

We have reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration Final Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Angoon Airport (EPA Project # 08-057-FAA) in Angoon, Alaska. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. We previously rated the Draft EIS, which identified Alternative 12a with 12a Access as the Preferred Alternative, EC-1 (Environmental Concerns-Adequate Information).

With our review of the Final EIS, we continue to support the Federal Aviation Administration's selection of Alternative 12a with 12a Access in the Record of Decision, as it is environmentally preferable to the other airport location and access road alternatives for nearly all resource categories. As we stated in our comments on the Draft EIS, in addition to avoiding designated Wilderness, Alternative 12a with 12a Access requires substantially less fill, impervious surface, and terrain disturbance, as well as fewer water body crossings, culverts, stream diversions, truck trips and barge trips. We also continue to note that it is the least costly alternative and is similar to other alternatives in instrument approach capability, minimums for visibility, and year-round availability. Overall, we believe Alternative 12a with 12a Access satisfactorily meets the purpose and need while clearly resulting in less environmental impacts.

We also appreciate the inclusion of several minor recommendations identified in our previous comment letter in the Final EIS. We recognize the extensive mitigation included in the Final EIS and recommend all proposed mitigation be carried forward into the Record of Decision, particularly with regard to mitigation activities involving Stream 10. Finally, we commend the FAA for the extensive outreach and stakeholder involvement, which occurred with this EIS. It is no doubt that such efforts have contributed to a more comprehensive and thoughtful document and outcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Final EIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Littleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent dot over the 'i' in "Littleton".

Christine B. Littleton, Manager
Office of Environmental Review and Assessment