

## Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Amendment to the Operations Specifications for Air Carrier Operations and Amendment to a Part 139 Airport Operating Certificate at Snohomish County Airport/Paine Field

### Welcome!

Thank you for attending the Public Workshop for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Amendment to the Operations Specifications for Air Carrier Operations, and Amendment to a Part 139 Airport Operating Certificate at Snohomish County Airport/Paine Field (PAE). At this Workshop, you are invited to:

- Review project information and learn about the proposed action, the alternatives evaluated, the impacts of the proposed action, and the mitigation measures to be implemented.
- Discuss the Proposed Action with the Study Team.
- Provide comments on the Draft Supplemental EA.

### Public Information Workshop/Public Hearing Format

Thank you for attending this important meeting. This Public Workshop is an “open house” format and allows you to view project materials and speak with representatives from the organizations responsible for assembling the Supplemental EA about the Proposed Action. This workshop will run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., the Public Information Workshop will close, and the Public Hearing will begin. A brief presentation will be made at the start of the Public Hearing to explain the purpose, procedures, and rules of conduct.

### Introduction to NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) establishes a broad framework for the United States national environmental policy. All government entities are required to consider the potential environmental effects of federal actions that may significantly affect the environment. EAs document the decision making process surrounding those actions: they present a systematic analysis of proposed actions and potential alternatives, and they promote an iterative process that generates better decisions.

### 2012 Environmental Assessment

An EA “...determines whether a proposed action or its alternatives have the potential to significantly affect the environment.” (FAA Order 1050.1E, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*).

In 2012, the FAA approved an EA analyzing a Proposed Action that would amend the Paine Field Part 139 Airport Operating Certificate to authorize scheduled commercial air service operations by planes with at least 31 passenger seats. The 2012 EA would allow Allegiant Air to operate a 150-seat Boeing MD-83 and Horizon Air to operate a 76-seat Bombardier Q400 aircraft at Paine Field with Operations Specifications for these aircraft. The 2012 EA also included constructing a terminal building. Although the terminal building was built, the other actions that supported scheduled commercial air service are not implemented.

This year, new requests were received from Alaska Airlines, United Airlines, and Southwest Airlines to amend the Operations Specifications, utilizing aircraft that were not analyzed in the 2012 EA. The new requests would result in the introduction of new service by different airlines and aircraft at Paine Field than were previously considered. The changes to the Proposed Action, as well as other changes in the local environment since 2012, are studied and presented in the Supplemental EA.

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### Overview of Proposed Action

This Draft Supplemental EA has been prepared to facilitate the FAA's review and consideration. Alaska Airlines, United Airlines, and Southwest Airlines propose to conduct scheduled commercial air service at Paine Field beginning in early 2019, offering up to 24 daily domestic round-trip flights. Initially Alaska and United would use Embraer 175 aircraft, and Southwest would use a Boeing 737. By 2024, Alaska and United anticipate the potential need for larger-capacity aircraft to accommodate potential growth or seasonal peaks utilizing the Boeing 737. The Proposed Action is needed to meet the demand for commercial air service within the greater Seattle area as identified by the requesting airlines.

The Supplemental EA has evaluated alternatives alongside the Proposed Action:

- **Proposed Action:** Alaska, United, and Southwest Airlines would conduct scheduled commercial air service at Paine Field, including up to 24 daily domestic round-trip flights using Embraer 175 and Boeing 737 aircraft.
- **No Action Alternative:** None of the airlines would initiate scheduled commercial service at Paine Field.

#### Alternatives considered but Dismissed from further evaluation:

- **Use Other Airports:** The FAA does not have the authority to direct or influence commercial service providers to provide commercial air carrier services at a particular airport or to require them to shift services from one airport to another.
- **Use Other Aircraft:** The FAA and Airport Sponsors do not dictate what aircraft use an airport or what aircraft are assigned to commercial air carrier routes if the proposed aircraft could safely operate at the proposed airport in compliance with all applicable statutes. Public use airports such as Paine Field cannot deny access to an aircraft operator if they can safely operate at that facility.

### How to Submit Comments

You may submit comments verbally or in writing at any time during the Public Information Workshop. All comments (written and verbal) will be considered equally during the preparation of the Final EA. Comments should be as specific as possible and should be organized so that they are meaningful and make the FAA clearly aware of the commenter's views, interests, and concerns.

#### Written Comments

Comment forms are provided at this workshop for your convenience and additional comment forms are available at the Comment Station in the Concourse. The comment period ends on November 2, 2018. All written comments may also be submitted to [PaineField@esassoc.com](mailto:PaineField@esassoc.com) or the following address:

Environmental Science Associates  
Paine Field Supplemental EA  
5309 Shilshole Ave NW, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98107

#### Verbal Comments

You may also provide verbal comments directly to a court reporter at any time during this workshop.

The Public Hearing will allow you to enter comments verbally into the record but will not include answering questions posed by members of the public. You may sign up to speak at the Public Hearing until 8:30 p.m.

The Public Workshop Handouts, comment forms, and Draft Supplemental EA area available online at <https://www.paineairport.com/219/2018-Air-Service-Environmental-Assessmen>