



***BEDFORD AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.***

*A Northern Westchester & Eastern Putnam County, New York  
chapter of the National Audubon Society*  
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August 3, 2000

The Honorable Andy Spano  
Westchester County Executive  
Michaelian Office Building  
White Plains, NY 10601

Westchester County Board of Legislators  
432 Michaelian Office Building  
White Plains, NY 10601  
Attn: Ms. Gina D'Agrosa, Director of Environmental Planning

Federal Aviation Administration  
600 Old Country Road, Suite 446  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Attn: Ms. Marie Jenet

**RE: Proposed Revisions to Westchester County Airport Layout Plan**

Dear Mr. Spano and Lead Agencies,

We urge the County and the FAA to carefully consider the proximity of Westchester County Airport to the sensitive wetlands buffers and protective forested and otherwise vegetative protective upland buffers of the Kensico/Rye Lake Reservoirs when evaluating any revision to the Westchester County Airport Layout Plan.

This reservoir funnels all the drinking water from the Catskill and Delaware Watersheds West of the Hudson River to over 9 million New York City and Westchester County residents! This system provides up to 90% of their drinking water!

This airport should never have been built at this location, no expansion should occur there, and the airport's activities should actually be curtailed to protect the natural buffers that protect this priceless supply of drinking water.

- Refrain from allowing any further development on the airport property.
- Conduct the thorough groundwater monitoring study proposed by Peter Dermody (we understand that Westchester County has agreed to this)
- Conduct a study on impact of the current levels of impervious surface in and around the Rye Lake/Kensico watershed

- Refrain from any future building on airport property and convert available land within the Kensico watershed into a vegetated buffer; where flight paths permit re-forestation, this should be done immediately. Natural vegetation other than grass (which creates high storm water runoff) should be investigated
- We urge that the Air National Guard Site not be developed, and further urge re-forestation of that site, for it does not appear to lie in any regular flight path. we strongly oppose construction of any Sports Complex at this location.
- The Long Island Sound must be protected through all Long Island Sound tributaries. Present protections for the Blind Brook appear inadequate. We further ask for mitigation wetlands due to the placement of a detention basin within a wetlands buffer.
- Revise the County Charter to forever freeze airport development and allow for no additions or expansion beyond what currently exists. Any future development projects must be forbidden, in that any increase in ground and/or air traffic threatens the vitality and cleanliness of the water and air upon which we all depend.

Respectfully Yours,

Donald C. Pachner  
Bedford Audubon Society, Inc.  
Chair, Conservation Committee