

IN RE: BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY 13-31 EXTENSION
Remote Public Hearing on 09/02/2020

1 V I R G I N I A :

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3 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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7 IN RE: BLUE RIDGE :
8 REGIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY :
9 13-31 EXTENSION :
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14 REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING

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19 DATE: September 2, 2020 (Wednesday)

20 TIME: 6:00 p.m.

21 LOCATION: Remote Webinar

22 REPORTER: Katherine P. Ford, RPR
23 Stenographic Reporter #19867

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 The following cause came on to be
4 heard remotely on September 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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6 MS. RAYFIELD: Thank you. So good
7 evening. It is 6:01 and the court reporter
8 should start at this moment, I should have
9 said.

10 Good evening, it is 6:01 p.m.
11 September 2, 2020. I will now call this
12 hearing to order. My name is Bettina
13 Rayfield and I will be presiding over the
14 hearing this evening on behalf of the
15 Department of Environmental Quality.

16 The purpose of this meeting is to
17 discuss or transact the business
18 statutorily required or necessary to
19 continue operations of the department, and
20 discharge, the discharge of its lawful
21 purposes, duties, and responsibilities.
22 And that the department has determined that
23 the nature of the declared emergency makes
24 it impracticable or unsafe for the public

1 body to assemble in a single location.

2 The Department of Environmental
3 Quality is conducting this public hearing
4 jointly with the Virginia Department of
5 Aviation. A representative from the
6 Department of Aviation will explain the
7 agency's role in this proceeding shortly.

8 Also present from DEQ is Janine
9 Howard. Notice of this hearing was
10 published in the "Martinsville Bulletin" on
11 Monday, August 17, 2020.

12 DEQ's responsibility for the public
13 hearing stems from the Virginia Code
14 Section 5.1-7. The law gives the
15 Department of Aviation licensing authority
16 over new airports and runway projects, and
17 directs it to consider the comments
18 resulting from a state agency review of the
19 social, economic, and environmental impact
20 of the proposed project.

21 The law also directs the Department
22 of Environmental Quality to conduct the
23 coordinated state agency environmental
24 review and to hold a public hearing as part

1 of the review.

2 After the public hearing, the
3 Department of Environmental Quality must
4 make a report to the Department of Aviation
5 within 90 days following its receipt of the
6 request for the review. The 90-day review
7 period ends on October 7, 2020.

8 The Blue Ridge Airport Authority,
9 owner and operator of the Blue Ridge
10 Airport Regional Airport (MTV) requests the
11 DoAv amend -- that DoAv amend the licensed
12 length of the current Runway 13-31, from a
13 5,002 foot C-II runway to a 6,000 foot D-II
14 runway. Other infrastructure associated
15 with the runway extension includes the
16 extension of the parallel taxiway,
17 associated exit taxiways, runway object-
18 free area, runway safety area, relocation
19 of navigational aids, lighting, grading,
20 realignment of Route 698, land acquisition,
21 easement acquisition, shift of runway 13
22 end west, and development of approaches to
23 the runway.

24 The runway extension would enable the

1 airport to effectively serve its critical
2 design aircraft, the Gulfstream 450, G450,
3 which is currently limited by the runway's
4 length and associated operating
5 capabilities.

6 Additionally, the runway extension is
7 expected to increase the airport positive
8 economic impacts to the region.

9 In keeping with Section 5.1-7, DEQ is
10 seeking public comment on the
11 environmental, social, and economic effects
12 of the airport project under consideration.

13 For members of the public who wish to
14 speak, please raise your hand on the
15 webinar and you will be given the
16 opportunity to speak. Any oral statements
17 provided will be recorded by a court
18 reporter who will create a transcript of
19 this hearing, and the resulting transcript
20 will be maintained as part of the official
21 record of the proceeding.

22 In addition, written comments may be
23 submitted until the end of the public
24 comment period, which extends until Friday,

1 September 11, 2020. Written comments must
2 be sent to Janine Howard at the Department
3 of Environmental Quality, Office of
4 Environmental Impact Review, at 1111 East
5 Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219 or
6 janine.howard@deq.Virginia.gov.

7 Mr. Stephen Smiley with the Planning
8 and Environmental section of the Department
9 of Aviation will discuss the role of his
10 department in this process.

11 Go ahead, Stephen.

12 MR. SMILEY: Good evening. I'm
13 Stephen Smiley, senior planner with the
14 Virginia Department of Aviation. Title
15 5.1-7 of the Code of Virginia states, in
16 part, that prior to any runway extension or
17 conduction of a new runway, a new license
18 and/or license modification application
19 must be approved by the Department of
20 Aviation.

21 Prior to any new license being
22 issued, the department must consider the
23 comments of all applicable state agencies
24 and request the Department of Environmental

1 Quality coordinate and conduct a public
2 hearing.

3 The purpose of the public hearing is
4 to provide the public an opportunity to
5 identify applicable issues or voice
6 comments concerning the economic, social,
7 and environmental effects that may result
8 from the proposed license modification.

9 With that, I would like to return
10 back to you, Bettina. Thank you very much.

11 MS. RAYFIELD: Thank you. Is there
12 anyone who would wish to speak at this
13 time? One last call for speakers. I don't
14 see anyone's hand raised. Okay.

15 Thank you all for coming and
16 participating in our review of this
17 proposal. Again, we will accept written
18 comments until Friday, September 11, 2020.

19 It is now 6:07 p.m. and the hearing
20 is adjourned.

21 MR. SMILEY: Thank you all.

22 MS. RAYFIELD: Thank you.

23 (Off record at 6:07 p.m.)

24

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

3 COUNTY OF ROANOKE

4 I, Katherine P. Ford, Notary Public in and
5 for the Commonwealth of Virginia, at Large, do
6 hereby certify that the Hearing on September 2,
7 2020 was by me reduced to machine shorthand in the
8 presence of the witnesses, afterwards transcribed
9 by me by means of computer, and that to the best
10 of my ability the foregoing is a true and correct
11 transcript of the Hearing.

12 I further certify that this Hearing was
13 taken at the time and place specified in the
14 foregoing caption.

15 I further certify that I am not a relative,
16 counsel or attorney for either party, or otherwise
17 interested in the outcome of this action.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
19 hand at Roanoke, Virginia on September 9, 2020.

20 *Katherine P. Ford, RPR*

21 _____
22 KATHERINE P. FORD, RPR
23 NOTARY PUBLIC No. 166385

24 My Commission expires February 28, 2023.

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