U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Great Lakes Region
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,
Minnesota, North Dakota,
Ohio, South Dakota,
Wisconsin

2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

JUL 18 2003

Mr. Steve Hamer
Transportation Program Manager
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
1 Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

Dear Mr. Hamer:

The purpose of this letter is to offer your agency the opportunity to serve as a Cooperating Agency with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), within the context of the forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the City of Chicago's concept for expanding and realigning O'Hare International Airport.

As described in the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1501.6), it appears that your agency has jurisdiction by law, and/or possesses special expertise, with respect to one or more environmental issues likely to be addressed in the forthcoming EIS as identified above. In providing your agency's decision on Cooperating Agency status, please note that FAA does not anticipate a request for your agency to write, or otherwise produce, any portion of the forthcoming EIS.

Irrespective of your decision regarding Cooperating Agency status, FAA fully intends to arrange for meetings with you, and/or your representative(s), on a recurring basis to discuss matters such as Purpose and Need and Range of Alternatives to be Evaluated in Detail, prior to issuance of the Draft EIS. Subject to your agency's concurrence, FAA also proposes to initiate these pre-Draft EIS meetings as soon as it may be determined mutually convenient to do so.

I hope your response will be forthcoming within thirty days following receipt of this letter. In the meantime, if you have any questions concerning Cooperating Agency status, please contact Mike MacMullen of the Chicago Airports District Office at 847/294-7522.

Sincerely yours,

Philip M. Smithmeyer, Manager
Chicago Airports District Office