



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

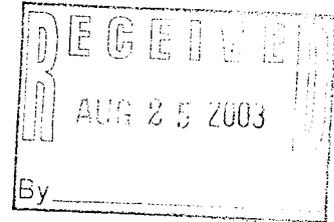
1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276, 217-782-3397
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 11-300, CHICAGO, IL 60601, 312-814-6026

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

RENEE CIPRIANO, DIRECTOR

*BBB
MIKE
AOL*

(217) 782-3397
TDD (217) 782-9143



August 19, 2003

Mr. Philip M. Smithmeyer, Manager
Chicago Airports District Office
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Mr. Smithmeyer:

This is in response to your letter of July 18, 2003, inviting the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to serve as a Cooperating Agency with the Federal Aviation Administration during the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the O'Hare Modernization Program. The IEPA continues to be very interested in the present and future plans for the development and operation of O'Hare airport. We have been actively involved in the scoping study meetings and development to date of the Draft EIS for the O'Hare Modernization Program. We appreciate the level of cooperation we have received in working with your staff on this and previous O'Hare airport related projects. In order to formally continue this involvement, the IEPA would be willing to serve as a Cooperating Agency in the development of the Draft EIS for the O'Hare Modernization Program.

Although the effects of the construction and operation of the O'Hare Modernization Program will involve IEPA staff from the Bureaus of Land and Water, I have requested that the Bureau of Air coordinate the Agency's review and response to issues related to the development of the Draft EIS. Please contact Mike Rogers at (217) 524-4408 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Renee Cipriano
Director