



September 21, 2022

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Re: Town of Middleton's Trinity Consultants Report, *Measurement of Ambient Lead Concentrations Around the Middleton Wisconsin Municipal Airport-Morey Field (C29)* dated 9/15/22

Dear Mayor Brar and Common Council Members:

We are enclosing the air quality testing report, *Measurement of Ambient Lead Concentrations Around the Middleton Wisconsin Municipal Airport-Morey Field (C29)* dated 9/15/22. The air quality testing was conducted by the environmental testing firm, Trinity Consultants, with attached maps showing the lead testing locations in the areas near the City of Middleton Municipal Airport – Morey Field (“C29” or “Morey Airport” or “Airport”). The lead testing results confirm the presence of airborne lead particles at all locations from the Morey Airport aircraft using leaded aviation gas. These test results confirm and validate the Morey Airport lead modeling report prepared by Trinity Consultants (“Trinity”) and previously forwarded to you titled, *Screening Level Assessment of Ambient Lead Concentrations Around the Middleton Wisconsin Municipal Airport* dated 3/18/22.

It is clear from the modeling report and actual air quality test results that the aircraft operations in and out of Morey Airport are spreading breathable airborne lead particles over thousands of children and adults on a daily basis. As you can see from the maps submitted with the reports, most of the Middleton Area Cross Plains Schools are subject to a nearly constant dusting of breathable airborne lead particles from the use of leaded aviation gas by Morey Airport aircraft.

This continuing situation presents a serious potential health problem to every child in the school district, including those who use the parks, playgrounds and athletic fields in close proximity to the Airport.

The Trinity reports also verify an increased health risk to all of the families who occupy the multi-unit housing developments within the City limits just east of the Airport boundary. The modeling report established that due to the prevailing winds, these areas within one to two miles of the Airport boundary are subject to the heaviest airborne lead pollution. Since a portion of this area includes a significant amount of the City's newer affordable housing, it may also raise serious social justice issues.

Dr. Bruce Lanphear, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, is a medical and public health expert on lead. Dr. Lanphear gave compelling testimony on the harmful health effects of this hazardous air pollutant at the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight Committee, Environment Subcommittee hearing on 7/28/22 titled:

Toxic Air: How Leaded Aviation Fuel is Poisoning America's Children, available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiCCLa98uSg>

(from 54:18 to 1:01:09).

A summary of Dr. Lanphear's key points on the adverse health effects from lead exposure are:

- There is No Safe Level of Lead Exposure for humans;
- Lead exposure, *even at very low levels*, harms children's brains, diminishes IQ, and increases the risk of ADHD;
- Lead is a cumulative poison;
- Lead is also a causal risk factor for adult Coronary Heart Disease citing 185,000 deaths caused by lead every year;
- As piston-driven aircraft traffic increased, children's blood lead levels increased for children that lived near the RHV general aviation airport citing the recent Reid-Hillview Airport Lead Study in Santa Clara County, CA, by Sammy Zahran, PhD, a Professor of Demography and Associate Chair in the Department of Economics in the Colorado School of Public Health;
- Lead exposure from airborne aircraft emissions is a major source of lead exposure;
- Lead exposure is an urgent public health problem; and
- Lead exposure is preventable.

The Miranda Study tested blood lead levels of 13,000 plus children who lived within 2,000 meters of 66 general aviation airports in North Carolina. The elevated blood lead levels were present in children located up to 1,500 meters from airport boundaries. (See *A Geospatial Analysis of the Effects of Aviation Gasoline on Childhood Blood Lead Levels (2011)*, Marie Lynn Miranda et. al.; Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3230438/>). The annual lead emissions from these 66 airports averaged 80 pounds per year. According to the U.S. EPA, the aircraft lead emissions from Morey Airport in a single year are in excess of 217 pounds.

A very small amount of inhaled lead particles can cause significant health problems in a child. Morey Airport is primarily a recreational airport of convenience and does not provide or serve any significant essential public function. The vast majority of the people who regularly keep their aircraft there and use the Airport do not reside in the City of Middleton, the Town of Middleton, or the Town of Springfield, the three communities most adversely affected by Airport operations.

In addition, the two flight training businesses (Morey Airplane Company and Capital Flight) located at the Airport are owned and operated by individuals who also live in communities not affected by Morey Airport aircraft pollution and operations. Likewise, the Chair of the Airport Commission is not a resident of any of the Airport affected communities and appears to have little or no interest in the potential health problems generated by the lead pollution caused by Morey Airport operations.

The continuing regular operations of Middleton's recreational Airport are potentially damaging the health, on both a short-term and long-term basis, of most of the 7,000 plus students in the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District. As the air testing results showed, the Special Fly-In Events the City continues to authorize and approve significantly increases the airborne lead pollution and the attendant health risk to all residents of three communities.

In light of the verification of the constant presence of breathable airborne lead particles in all areas surrounding Morey Airport, we request, on behalf of the children and adults of the Town of Middleton, that the City of Middleton Common Council immediately:


1. Terminate all sales of leaded aviation gas at the City's Morey Airport. Sell only unleaded aviation gas. If some aircraft must burn leaded gas, it is available just 9 nautical miles away at Dane County Regional Airport.
2. Terminate and bar all future Fly-In Special Events at Morey Airport to eliminate the increase in airborne lead pollution these events generate.

The recreational interests of a very few individuals, most of whom do not live in any affected area, should not be allowed to damage the health of thousands of residents of three heavily residentially developed municipalities, especially when many of those residents are children.

We look forward to a response.

Sincerely,

Town Board, Town of Middleton


By: Cynthia Richson, Town Board, Chair

Approved by the Town Board of the Town of Middleton authorizing the Town Chair to sign on behalf of the Town Board on September 20, 2022, by a vote of 5-0.

Attachment: Trinity Consultants Report, *Measurement of Ambient Lead Concentrations Around the Middleton Wisconsin Municipal Airport-Morey Field (C29)*. dated 9/15/22

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