

May 16, 2023

Hillsboro City Council Meeting Comments

Mayor Callaway and Council Members:

My name is Blaine Ackley and I reside in the North East portion of the City.

Thank you for allowing us to testify today. Three of us will be speaking about lead emissions from the Hillsboro Airport. We request 9 minutes for our testimony.

From EPA studies we know that:

- 1) Lead is dangerous in any amount and especially dangerous for children and seniors.
- 2) The Hillsboro Airport (HIO) is the 8th most lead contaminated airport in the US according to a 2017 EPA study.
- 3) As a result, Washington County is the most lead contaminated county in the state of Oregon.
- 4) Lead concentrations at HIO are caused by the leaded aviation fuel used by piston engines in propeller driven general aviation planes. Fixed base operators sell the leaded aviation gas (avgas) at HIO. The Port of Portland profits from the sale of leaded fuel by charging a flowage fee on every gallon sold.
- 5) We know that lead concentrations peak near airport runways especially taxiway, run-up and take off areas.
- 6) When these contaminated areas are close to each other, it results in lead hot spots.
- 7) Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum is one of 12 state attorneys general to sign a letter of support to the EPA for making a ruling about lead endangerment this fall.
- 8) When the EPA issues a lead endangerment ruling, the FAA will mandate restrictions at all airports including signage and avgas fuel restrictions. But all of this will take time.
- 9) Current FAA rules and regulations allow an airport proprietor such as the Port of Portland to reduce noise and address other community concerns. The proprietor can also make changes to protect the health and safety of local residents.

We are seeking five things from you today.

- 1) We request that the City Council issue a proclamation in support of the CDC, HUD and EPA sponsored National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week slated for October 22 – 29 of this year.
- 2) We request that the city include the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in the September / October 'City Views' Newsletter.

- 3) In recognition of the lead contamination within a 2 to 4 mile radius of the airport, we request the city post warning signs on city property that is located within this area. We request this because we believe that it is the City's obligation to insure our community is made aware of this dangerous pollution.
- 4) We request that the City Council pass a resolution to the Port of Portland requesting that the Port expedite conversion of their av-gas refueling to lead free. Dr. Lubischer will speak more about this.
- 5) We further request the City to collaborate with the OHA [Oregon Health Authority] and the Hillsboro School District to begin testing the blood of children who are living or attending school within a 2 to 4 mile radius of the airport. Miki Barnes will speak more about this.

It is time for Hillsboro to move beyond the obfuscation and delay of the Port of Portland and time to protect our children and fellow citizens from this long lived and unseen poison.

Blaine Ackley
Hillsboro, Oregon