# FAA agrees to analyze single-plane noise at D/FW

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D/FW AIRPORT — Under pressure from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Aviation Administration has agreed to beef up its 10-year-old method for measuring airport noise when assessing plans for expansion at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and six other airports across the country.

The FAA's agreement to estimate noise levels generated by individual aircraft — rather than simply the average amount of noise over a 24-hour period — is viewed by EPA officials and D/FW expansion opponents as a significant change in the way airport growth is scrutinized.

Richard Sanderson, director of federal activities at EPA headquarters in Washington, said "single-event noise analysis" will enable the airport's neighbors to understand more fully how expansion will affect them.

"We just believe it's good government," Sanderson said. "It's full disclosure, so people will know what they will have to live with."

Advocates of single-event analysis say the current method based on noise averages has a tendency to dilute the threat of airport expansion by failing to outline worst-case scenarios.

Grapevine Mayor Bill Tate, a leading opponent of D/FW's expansion plan, said that applying single-event analysis to the airport's plan for building two new runways could represent a major victory for the expansion's opponents.

"To date, the public has not really been able to envision what the impact will be," Tate said. "Hopefully, we can more graphically depict that now."

The FAA's projections of single-event noise levels at D/FW will be released today in a long-awaited comprehensive analysis of the airport's expansion proposal. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release at a 10 a.m. news conference at D/FW headquarters.

Airport spokesman Joe Dealey Jr. yesterday declined to comment on the FAA's noise analysis.

D/FW's expansion plan, which is intended to double the airport's capacity and would make it the busiest in the world, has encountered stiff opposition

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