Meeting Summary Report – Airplane Fuel Facility Project

Fuel tanks are the safest and most efficient way to store and supply fuel at an airport. The airlines still use the original fuel storage facility that opened with the airport in 1999. As demand for air travel grows, so does the need for airlines to store more fuel on airport property.

May 31 Meeting

Location: Travis County Constable Office, Precinct 4
4011 McKinney Fall Parkway, #1100
Austin, Texas 78744

Attendance: 18 total, including neighbors from McCall Lane & Seeling Drive, Colorado Crossing, students & Staff from the University of Texas, staff from Council District 2, staff from the City of Austin Department of Aviation

Materials Presented:

- Safety & Security Features of the New Facility
    - Staffed 24/7, with security and a closed-circuit TV system, security lighting, and a security-controlled access gate with a 10-foot fence
    - Sensors and alarms, tank venting, a leak detection system, and fire protection
    - Designed to withstand 120 mph wind speeds three-second gusts
    - Enclosed in a concrete wall to capture any unlikely leaks

- Air Quality Monitoring
  City of Austin Department of Aviation Environmental Staff will oversee the fuel facility's air monitoring program. Air will be sampled for specific volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are known, or potentially could be, in Jet Fuel.
    - VOCs are gases that are emitted into the air from jet fuel products or processes
    - Types of VOCs we will seek to measure include: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Total Xylenes, Naphthalene, and Trimmethylbenzene
    - Data will be collected every two weeks
    - Baseline samples are being taken now for comparison later
    - Data will be validated by an independent third party and shared with the community
- Ground Protection Features
  Ground protection barriers are an important way to protect against unlikely fuel leaks. Key features include:
    - Concrete wall surrounding the tanks that measures six feet high above ground and three feet below ground.
    - Lined dike surrounding the tanks that's large enough to hold the entire contents of the tanks.
    - Corrosion control system helps protect the tanks from corroding.
- Fencing Options
  Meeting attendee were asked to select their preferred fencing option from the following choices:
    - Chain link fence with plastic slats
    - Wrought iron fence
    - An artist-designed fence
      - The artist-designed fence received the most votes. Department of Aviation staff will work with staff from the City of Austin's Art in Public Places Program to conduct community engagement, and go through the formal Arts in Public Places program to select an artist to complete a public art component for the site.

September 23 Meeting

Location: Taqueria Morelos
3100 South Highway 183
Austin, Texas 78744

Attendance: 15 total, including neighbors from McCall Lane & Seeling Drive, Colorado Crossing, students & Staff from the University of Texas, staff from Council District 2, staff from the City of Austin Fire Department and Department of Aviation

Material Presented:
To ensure the safety of our neighbors and our community, the City of Austin Department of Aviation is actively monitoring the air quality at the new facility. We've installed seven air quality monitoring devices at five individual stations around the fuel facility. The monitoring data will be updated monthly, and is available for review at our website: SpeakUpAustin.org/AUSFuel.

What are we monitoring: The fuel facility emits gases known as volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. The types of VOCs we measure included: Benzene, Naphthalene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Total Xylenes, and Trimethylbenzene. The chart to the left shows the baseline data collected this summer. This data was collected prior to filling the tanks with fuel so that future sampling will show the actual difference in air quality, before and after fueling operation.

May 31 Meeting

1. Could you elaborate a plan of action to communicate with community members beyond online web portal if air pollutants measured exceed Effective Screening Level (ESL) limits?
    a. At this time, we have not discussed a reporting system beyond the online portal but we are open to exploring options presented by the community.
2. As you deploy Photo Ionization Detector (PID) sensors to measure the VOCs, can you leave those on and reporting data at all times, and not just during baseline measurements? If not, please elaborate on the barriers impending that.
    a. The PID is less sensitive than the passive sampler tubes and only picks up general VOCs, rather than the specific chemicals of concern in Jet-A fuel. Although there is some value in the data collected by a PID, we are also limited on the resources required to continuously maintain a PID in the field (checking battery backup, lost cell connection, sensor burnout, weatherproofing, etc.). We plan to use the data collected by the passive samplers to inform how and where we deploy a PID if necessary. If the passive tubes collect an exceedance on any of the chemicals we are sampling for, we may deploy a PID as an additional investigative tool.

September 23 Meeting

1. How will neighbors and local businesses be notified of a hazardous situation/incident or if they need to evacuate their homes or businesses?
    a. This would be a very unlikely scenario; however, if evacuation were required, neighbors and businesses would be contacted directly by officials from the City of Austin, which could include personnel from the Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, or Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.
2. What is the status of the Art in Public Places project planned for the fence around the facility? Who is the contact?

a. The Department of Aviation has begun initial conversations with the City of Austin Arts in Public Places (AIPP) team. The project is in the very early, preliminary stages of planning. The AIPP team can be reached via their website: https://www.austintexas.gov/email/aipp.