



June 6, 2025

City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 7th Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Attention: Dave Heyworth

Via e-mail: Dave.Heyworth@hamilton.ca

Re: GTR-25004677-B0

Project Name: **Peer Review of Noise Feasibility Study – Proposed White Church Urban Boundary Expansion, Hamilton, ON**

Subject: **Peer Review to Noise Feasibility Study**

1 Introduction

EXP Services Inc. (EXP) was retained by the City of Hamilton to complete a peer review of a Noise Feasibility Study (Study) prepared by Howe Gastmeier Chapnik Limited (HGC) and dated December 9, 2024 for a proposed White Church Urban Boundary Expansion in Hamilton. The project site is bound by Upper James Street, Airport Road East, Miles Road and White Church Road East in Hamilton

The purpose of this peer review is to examine and critique the engineering methodology used to reach the conclusions included in the Study. Independent verification of various calculations and analysis used in the report is beyond the scope of this work. Our comments of the peer review are presented below.

2 Peer Review Comments – Revised Noise Feasibility Study

2.1 Section 3.2 Air Traffic Noise Criteria

It is stated in Section 3.2.1 in the Study that there are no outdoor noise criteria for aircraft noise in NPC-300. However, it is not true. NPC-300 Table C-3 presents an outdoor aircraft noise limit of NEF/NEP 30.

As stated in Section 3.2.3 in the Study, the City of Hamilton UHOP prohibits residential development in areas of 28 NEF and greater. However, part of the proposed residential area falls between 28 NEF and 30 NEF. The Study implies that such requirement is not mandatory and does not address the exceedance in the rest of the Study. However, it is EXP's opinion that the City of Hamilton UHOP noise criterion should be followed because it is up to the municipality to decide whether to adopt the noise criteria in NPC-300. The 2010 NEF contours can be used for noise assessments at the moment until the NEF contours from the 2023 Airport Master Plan is adopted by the City of Hamilton UHOP.

2.2 Section 4.1.2 Road Traffic

The AADT in 2035 for Upper James Street in Table 3 in the Study does not correspond to the AADT in 2019 in Appendix A

2.3 Section 5.2 Ventilation Requirements

It is stated in Section 5.2 that central air conditioning is required for residential and commercial blocks adjacent to Upper James Street. It then states that second-storey bedroom windows of lots/blocks with exposure to Upper James Street require provision for future installation of central air conditioning systems. It is unclear at which location that only provision for future installation of central air conditioning systems is required.

2.4 Section 6 Summary of Recommendations

It is included as one of the recommendations that a detailed noise study is required for commercial and institutional school blocks. EXP understands that it is still in the early stages of design. However, the Study should provide more details related to potential stationary noise sources and noise control measures associated with these land uses to demonstrate that it is feasible to mitigate any significant noise impact to surrounding residential properties.

As stated in Section 3.2.3 in the Study, there is no effective means of mitigation for outdoor amenity areas for aircraft noise. Part of the proposed residential area falls between 28 NEF and 30 NEF, which exceeds the UHOP requirement. It is EXP's opinion that the land located between 28 NEF and 30 NEF can be developed into non-noise-sensitive land uses. Alternatively, the land can be developed into noise-sensitive land uses where outdoor amenity area is not crucial, such as worship spaces and private learning institution.

3 Conclusion

EXP generally agrees with the assumptions, calculations, and approach in the Study. However, there is a discrepancy in traffic data for Upper James Street. The Study should also address potential noise impact from the proposed commercial block and school blocks to surrounding residential properties. The Study, although mentioned the 28 NEF requirement in UHOP in Section 3.2, does not address how the requirement can be met.

4 General Limitations

The information in this report is considered to be privileged and confidential and has been prepared exclusively for the City of Hamilton. The purpose of this report is to provide the City of Hamilton with a Peer Review of the Noise Feasibility Study prepared by HGC. The information presented in this report is based on information provided by others and visual observations as identified herein. Achieving the objectives stated in this report has required us to arrive at conclusions based upon the best information presently known to us. No investigative method can completely eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise or incomplete information; it can only reduce the possibility to an acceptable level. Professional judgment was exercised in gathering and analyzing the information obtained and in the formulation of the conclusions we reach, but we commit ourselves to care and competence in reaching those conclusions.

Air quality conditions at various times may differ from those encountered. In addition, any changes to operations such as the introduction of new processes and/or alterations to air-handling equipment may render the conclusions of the report inaccurate or invalid. In the event of such changes, EXP should be contacted to re-evaluate the conditions with the assessed area and make appropriate revision to the original conclusions of this report.

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5 Closure

We trust that the information provided in this report is satisfactory for your purposes. Should you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

EXP Services Inc.



Pearlie Yung, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Senior Acoustical Engineer
Environmental Services



Ron Taylor, M.Sc., C.Chem., CIH
Discipline Lead, Air Quality & Industrial Hygiene
Environmental Services