



**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

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November 29, 2007

Attn: Mr. Robert Alexander  
Specialist, Air Traffic Airspace Branch  
Federal Aviation Administration, ASW-520  
2601 Meacham Boulevard  
Fort Worth, TX 76137-0520

RE: Aeronautical Study No. 2007-AEA-4409-OE

Dear Mr. Alexander,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing over 413,000 members nationwide, objects to the proposed antenna tower near Saratoga County Airport (5B2), Saratoga Springs, New York.

We are concerned that the proposed height of this antenna tower will have negative impacts on instrument operations at 5B2.

The planned height for the antenna tower would increase takeoff minimums for runway 32 to 1300ft AGL cloud ceiling and 3nm visibility or a standard departure with a minimum climb rate of 250 feet per nautical mile to 2,100ft MSL; the current departure minimums are 400ft AGL cloud ceiling and 2nm visibility or a standard departure with a minimum climb rate of 250 feet per nautical mile to 1,000ft MSL. If aircraft departing 5B2 cannot meet the new standard departure climb rate, they are forced to depart at nearly VFR conditions. This would have detrimental impacts to operations at 5B2; it would decrease safety, utility, and economic impact of this airport to the community.

Lastly, only Schenectady County Airport (SCH) has comparable runways, with relatively similar departure minimums, depending on wind conditions. Since 5B2 is only 12nm away from SCH, Saratoga County Airport could serve as a good alternate for aircraft that normally operate out of SCH. But with an increase in departure minimums for 5B2, this option would be lost.

AOPA strongly suggests that the planned height of the structure be lowered to the FAA-suggested No Effect Height (NEH) of 1611 feet MSL if no further study is done.

We recommend that the FAA find this antenna tower a hazard to aerial navigation, if the proponent cannot lower the structure to the NEH height. We thank you for considering our comments.

Mr. Robert Alexander  
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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Hart", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brent Hart  
Aviation Technical Specialist  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association