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Mail Processing Center
Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Regional Office
Obstruction Evaluation Group
2601 Meacham Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76137

Re: Aeronautical Studies 2011-WTE-5234-OE, 2011-WTE-5236-OE – 2011-WTE-5243-OE, 2011-WTE-5245-OE, 2011-WTE-5253-OE – 2011-WTE-5265-OE, and 2011-WTE-7701-OE

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) submits the following comments in reference to the above aeronautical studies on behalf of our more than 400,000 members nationwide and 5,238 members in the State of Kansas.

AOPA is concerned that the first 10 wind turbines noted above will cause an increase in the Minimum Descent Altitude for the S-17 minimum descent altitude for the NDB RWY 17 standard instrument approach procedure at Shalz Field (CBK) from 3640 to 3740 ft. MSL. They will also cause a 100 foot increase in the missed approach holding altitude from 4800 to 4900 ft. MSL. The following 13 wind turbines will necessitate increasing the missed approach holding altitude for the RNAV (GPS) RWY 34 standard instrument approach procedure from 4700 to 4800 ft. MSL. The final wind turbine noted above will have the same affects on instrument procedures at CBK as the first 10 turbines.

AOPA contends that the aircraft operating to Shalz Field in IFR conditions and executing instrument approaches require protection from new obstructions on the ground. We support the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) position that existing safety clearances are maintained if the height of the turbines is less than 499' above ground level. We encourage the airport sponsor to work with local municipal and state government to ensure proper protections are in place to meet the FAA guidance by requiring the proposed turbines not exceed 499' AGL.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter. If we can be of further assistance please contact our staff at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy

Cc:

Mark Ostmeyer, Manager, Shalz Field (CBK)
Carolyn Armstrong, City Manager, City of Colby, Kansas
Ken Christianson, Chairman, Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Ed Young, Director, Division of Aviation, Kansas Department of Transportation