



**Newsletter #2**

**Noise Compatibility Study (Part 150)  
Martha's Vineyard Airport**

Martha's Vineyard Airport (MVY) is participating in the federal Airport Noise Compatibility Planning process under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR Part 150), often referred to simply as Part 150. Participation in this process is voluntary and allows for greater understanding of airport and community noise needs, as well as providing access to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding for some noise compatibility program measures, if necessary. The program provides standards for the measurement of noise, as well as its analysis, description, and documentation. Part 150 also sets forth a system for review, from both FAA and the public.

The focus of the MVY Part 150 Study is on creating a Noise Exposure Map (NEM) for the airport in terms of Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The FAA and most other federal agencies use DNL as the basis for evaluating effects from aircraft operations near an airport, including land use compatibility.

The MVY NEM development kicked off in January 2023 with a public information meeting. The study team collected data on the current airport operations from FAA records and the airport's Vector System radar flight track data, with input from the Technical Advisory Committee. In addition to the noise modeling required to produce the DNL contour map, the study team conducted a noise measurement program during the peak season and assessed MVY's current voluntary noise abatement program.



Figure 1. 2028 forecast conditions DNL contours: outermost contour line (dashed) is DNL 60, shown for informational purposes only. FAA's threshold for land use compatibility is DNL 65.

**Public Information Meeting**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
6:00 – 8:00 pm  
MVY Airport Terminal

*open-house style workshop to view results of the study and ask questions of the study team*

**Noise Exposure Map (NEM)**

The NEM document presents the two official noise exposure maps: the existing conditions (2023) and the five-year forecast conditions (2028).

For informational purposes only, peak-season noise contours have been calculated, in recognition of the seasonality of the airport and residents' concerns. That analysis is provided in an appendix to the document.

## Noise Measurement Program

Although Part 150 does not require noise measurements, FAA guidelines allow that noise measurement results may be included as supplementary information to help describe the existing aircraft noise environment. The study team conducted measurements at 10 residential locations from July 10 to 18. Over 185 hours of noise measurement data were collected at each of three primary measurement sites, and 48-120 hours of data were collected at seven secondary locations during the measurement period. The measured noise data are summarized in the NEM report, with detailed site-by-site reporting provided in an appendix.

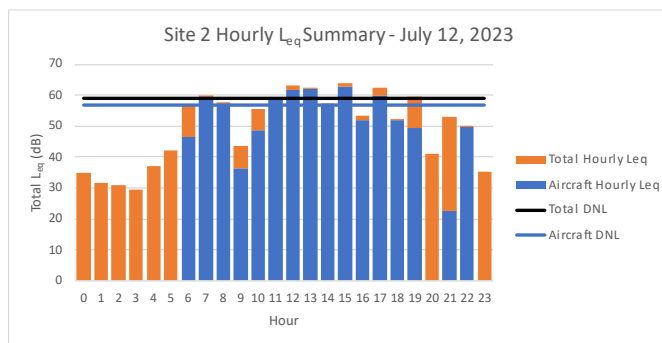


Figure 2. Noise measurement sample; July 12, site 2. Each bar shows hourly average noise level (Leq): blue portion represents aircraft-produced noise energy, orange from other noise sources.

## Voluntary Noise Abatement Program

MVY has a voluntary “Fly Friendly” program in place to encourage pilots to use prescribed procedures designed to minimize noise over residential areas. The procedures include the delay of turns after takeoff, use of preferred runways when possible, and limiting nighttime departures by louder aircraft. Detailed measure-by-measure analysis of the program elements is provided as an appendix to the NEM report.

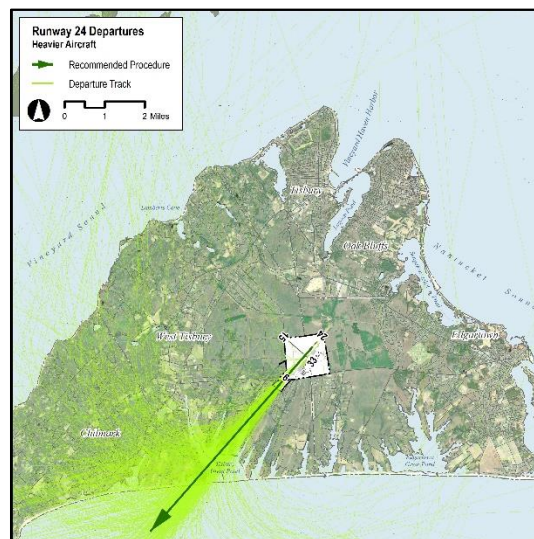


Figure 3. Sample from Fly Friendly analysis: radar flight tracks for heavy aircraft departing Runway 24, superimposed with recommended path – 56 percent remained on runway heading

## Public Review and Comment Period

The full Draft Noise Exposure Map document is available for public review, with a 30-day public comment period from October 6 to November 6, 2023. The report can be found on the study website: <https://mvvairport.com/mvypart150-faa-noise-study/> in pdf format. Paper copies are available for review during business hours at three locations:

- Airport
- Library
- MVAC offices.

Members of the public may submit written comments by email to the project manager ([klarson@hmmh.com](mailto:klarson@hmmh.com)), by US mail to **HMMH, 700 District Avenue, Suite 800, Burlington, MA 01803, attn: K. Larson**, or in person at the public meeting on October 10. All written comments will be included in the final NEM submittal to FAA.

### For More Information:

MVY Fly Friendly website page:  
<https://mvvairport.com/noise-abatement-fly-friendly/>

MVY Part 150 Project website page:  
<https://mvvairport.com/mvypart150-faa-noise-study/>

FAA Noise Issues and Information:  
[http://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/apl/noise\\_emissions/airport\\_aircraft\\_noise\\_issues/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/noise_emissions/airport_aircraft_noise_issues/)