

## **Media Advisory – Oct. 2, 2008**

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### **Horizon Air proposes flights at Paine Field**

*FAA will require negotiations with regional airline*

Horizon Air, a Seattle-based airline, has joined Allegiant Airlines in its pursuit of commercial flights from Snohomish County's Paine Field, located between Everett and Mukilteo.

The airline notified county officials Thursday morning of its desire to start flights as early as next summer.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, who opposes commercial flights at the airport, said his office will continue to follow federal law, which requires good-faith negotiations with any airline.

“For personal reasons, I don't believe commercial air is compatible with current operations at Paine Field or the numerous households now surrounding the airport,” Reardon said Thursday. “But we will continue following the law.”

Horizon Air indicated it will introduce daily service from Paine Field to Portland and Spokane, with scheduled times to facilitate same-day business trips between cities. Horizon intends to use 76-seat Bombardier Q400 turboprop airplanes.

In May, Allegiant Air, which offers flights to recreational destinations from smaller cities, indicated its flights would begin between Paine Field and Las Vegas.

At that time, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) directed Snohomish County to “negotiate in good faith” with any airline expressing interest in using Paine Field.

Reardon instructed his staff to comply with federal requirements, and conversations between Allegiant, Paine Field operators and the Transportation Security Administration, which provides protection and safety at the nation's airports, have been ongoing.

Reardon said Thursday that Horizon will be added to those conversations.

In 2005, Reardon formed a panel of 12 community members to review and update the role of Paine Field defined by the Snohomish County Commissioners in 1978, and charged the community panel to update the Mediated Role Determination (MRD) Document.

The MRD Document, created between 1978 and 1979, identified general and industrial aviation as the primary uses of Paine Field. It also encouraged growth of aircraft-related industries, business and corporate aviation, air taxi and commuter service. It discouraged growth beyond 1978 service levels of air cargo aviation, supplemental and charter air passenger service, large transport crew training operations and military aviation.

The panel concluded that federal law does not allow the county to prohibit or limit scheduled passenger air service.

Paine Field occupies more than 1,300 acres of land and has three paved runways. It is home to major aeronautics companies that account for more than 30,000 jobs in the Puget Sound, including The Boeing Co., Goodrich, ATS and the soon-to-be-relocated Korry Electronics.

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