



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 22, 2018

Current Resident
«ADDRESS_1»
«CITYSTATEZIPCODE»

Subject: Status Update Regarding Odorous Windows
Midway Residential Sound Insulation Program (“RSIP”)

Dear Resident:

I am writing to inform you of our progress on testing of odorous RSIP windows. **Today, the Chicago Department of Aviation (“CDA”) is releasing two new reports completed by independent experts, enclosed in this letter for your review. These reports confirm again that there is no evidence of a health risk caused by odors emitted from RSIP vinyl windows, and provide recommendations for mitigating the odors from those windows.** These reports complete a yearlong, two-step testing process to identify the source of the odors, as well as a solution for impacted residents.

The first report by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., or “Amec”), presents the findings of additional indoor air quality (“IAQ”) monitoring and testing. In this report, Amec concludes “there is no evidence to suggest to that compounds contributed by the windows are present at concentrations that would pose a threat to health.” **Further, Amec has stated its confidence in cumulative testing results over the last year, and that these results provide an accurate basis for assessing health risks connected to windows.**

The second report by Architectural Testing, Inc., an Intertek company (“Intertek”), presents the findings and recommendations for mitigating the odors from the windows. In this report, Intertek validates an earlier recommendation (announced via an earlier report in July 2018) that removal of the existing window screen material and replacing it with a more stable screen material will address the odor concerns with the acoustical windows.

We have posted the two latest test reports on the CDA website for public review:
<http://www.flychicago.com/community/MDWnoise/SoundInsulation/pages/default.aspx>.

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These reports follow three previous reports regarding odorous windows testing over the past year, which have been released to the public by the City of Chicago and are available on the CDA website.

Beginning in the second half of 2017, extensive laboratory testing began by industrial hygiene expert, Amec. The first report, dated December 29, 2017, presented the results from laboratory testing of the windows and IAQ testing inside homes, and indicated that the testing results did not identify any recognizable health concerns associated with odorous windows.

Subsequent investigation by Amec has confirmed that there is no evidence of health-related risks attributable to the windows. In a report presented in July of 2018, two key findings were announced. First, extensive laboratory and headspace testing found that the primary source of the window odors are the PVC-coated screens found in many Sound Solutions Windows & Doors, LLC (“Sound Solutions”) window installations. Two, Amec’s testing affirmed that there is no evidence of health risks in connection to RSIP window products or the odors emitted.

Later this fall, the CDA will update you on a plan to implement odor mitigation for all homeowners with confirmed odors. We are currently developing this plan using the findings of our comprehensive testing program, and are working to procure a solution that will bring effective and expeditious relief for all homes experiencing odorous and/or mechanically defective RSIP windows.

We appreciate your patience as the CDA has worked to identify and address the odor issues in your homes. Over the past several weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with several homeowners, which has allowed us to learn more about this issue firsthand as we work to adopt the right solution for it.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress on this matter and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns as we proceed toward a solution for you. If you have any questions regarding these reports or need assistance in any language other than English, please call our RSIP office at 773-838-5632.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Rhee
Commissioner of Aviation