



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: August 20, 2008

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ardyth Williams".

From: Ardyth Williams, Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems

To: Manager, Eastern Terminal Service Area Airspace Group

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

We have reviewed the subject proposal, USDA Operations, tracking number 2008-ESA-1, to operate an Unmanned Aircraft System in the National Airspace System (NAS). That request was forwarded to the Unmanned Program Office, AIR-160 for formal determination of equivalent level of safety for CFR Part 91 requirements. The FAA non-concurs with the COA application due to the items listed below.

- The proposed area of operations is located directly in the middle of an alert area (A-211).
- There are over 20 Army heliports surrounding the proposed area of operations: all of which conduct student pilot operations.
- The proposed area of operations is within 10 miles of four instrument flight rules (IFR) airfields or heliports.

In your discussions with the UAS proponents, please make it clear that the review of the proposed activity was based on our current understanding of the UAS operations and the impacts of such operations in the NAS.

If you have any questions please contact Mike Connor at 202-267-9255, e mail Mike.CTR.Connor@faa.gov, fax 202-267-9328.