



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

March 5, 2013

PIERCE COUNTY PUB WORKS & UTILITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUILDING, 9850 64TH STREET WEST
UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA 98467

Dear Airport Sponsor:

Thank you for your participation in the FAA Contract Tower (FCT) Program. We regret to inform you that in order to implement the budget sequestration that went into effect on March 1, 2013, the FAA must make some critical decisions about funding for the FCT Program.

The FAA's guiding principles in implementing the budget sequestration are to maintain our high safety standards, and to minimize the impact to the greatest numbers of passengers. Therefore, the FAA's initial plans unfortunately affect smaller airports with fewer operations and lower passenger counts more significantly than locations serving larger blocks of passengers. We have identified and, on February 22, 2013, published a list of towers that had fewer than 150,000 total operations AND fewer than 10,000 commercial operations. We anticipate that we will cease to fund on-site air traffic control services at the vast majority of these facilities.

Your airport falls below the above stated criteria based on Fiscal Year 2012 traffic count, and therefore the tower is on the list of those for which we may cease providing funding. Between now and March 13, 2013, the FAA is reviewing its list of locations where it plans to discontinue air traffic control services to identify any locations where the national interest would be adversely affected by tower closure. Negative impact on the national interest is the only criterion the FAA will use for deciding to continue services to an airport that falls below the activity threshold. The FAA is unable to consider local community impact that does not affect the national interest.

The FAA will consider information concerning how closure of particular tower operations will adversely affect the national interest in submissions it receives on or before March 13, 2013. Submissions may be sent to ATO-Terminal Services at ClosureComments@faa.gov or fax to ATO-Terminal Services at (202) 493-4565. The FAA plans to finalize the list of facility closures by March 18, 2013.

While the timing of this action is driven by sequestration, continuing annual budgetary pressure may necessitate future reductions such as these. For communities where the continuation of air traffic control services is important to their airport, but the impact of closure is local and does not affect the national interest, the non-federal contract tower program continues to be an available option to maintain air traffic control services at the airport's expense. Additional information regarding the non-federal contract tower program is contained in Advisory Circular Number AC 90-93A (Operating Procedures for Airport Traffic Control

Towers (ATCT) that are not operated by, or under contract with, the United States (Non-Federal)).

If you have additional questions or need further information, please contact your FAA point of contact in the Service Center, or Tony Mello, Director of Terminal Operations at FAA Headquarters, at (202) 385-8533.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Huerta
Administrator



J. David Grizzle
Chief Operating Officer
Air Traffic Organization