



**U. S. Department
of Transportation**

Federal Aviation
Administration

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September 5, 2007

Ms. Cindy Parr, Chief
Administrative Services
Carroll County Government
225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157-5194

Reference: Carroll County Regional Airport
Obstruction Removal

Dear Ms. Parr:

During our recent discussion regarding obstruction removal requirements at the airport, you identified several issues for which we hope to provide some clarification.

Section 5-1602 of the Forest Conservation Act (Act) of the Code of Maryland Regulations 08.19 identifies exceptions to the Act noting that the provisions of this subtitle do not apply to: *(11) the cutting or clearing of trees to comply with the requirements of 14 CFR 77.25 relating to objects affecting navigable airspace, provided that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined that the trees are a hazard to aviation.*

FAA Object clearing criteria were developed to provide for safe and efficient operations at an airport and require that certain areas on or near the airport be clear of objects or restricted to objects with a certain function, composition or height. Those FAA standards which must be clear include the FAR Part 77 and the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Obstruction Clearance Surfaces (OCS). The 2002 Obstruction Removal study identified that the trees in question are obstruction to both the Part 77 and PAPI OCS surfaces. The FAA has previously determined that penetrations to those surfaces are considered hazards to air navigation. The comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) recently completed with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated May 28, 2003, included the evaluation of the removal of those hazards.

