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## Creation of the Noise Insulation Program Boundaries

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### Background

The boundaries of the Noise Remedy Program were created in 1985 and are based on the year 2000's forecasted noise levels. A nationally standardized computer model uses aircraft operations data to establish noise contours. Noise contours are measured using the DNL metric; the FAA has designated residences within the 65 DNL as impacted by aircraft noise.

DNL refers to the 24 hour "Day Night Level" average sound. This average includes a 10 dB penalty for nighttime noise. This 10-db penalty means that 1 nighttime sound event is equivalent to 10 daytime events of the same level. Information used in the computer model is periodically evaluated using noise data from Sea-Tac Airport's twenty-five permanent noise-monitoring stations.

### How were the boundaries created?

When analyzing the placement of the Noise Remedy Program boundaries, the forecasted noise measurement at the center of the 40-acre grid was used. If the noise contour line crossed a grid that has a center reading of 65 DNL the entire 40-acre grid qualified for insulation. Features such as main arterials or bodies of water were taken into account when possible.

### Will these boundaries increase?

Over the years, the DNL noise contours have decreased as a result of Sea-Tac's noise reduction programs and the phasing out of older, louder aircraft. Noise contours are reevaluated on a regular basis. If the Noise Remedy Program boundaries were created today, based on the current noise contours, the areas eligible for home insulation would be smaller than the current program boundaries. Even though noise contours have shrank, the Port of Seattle has remained committed to insulating all 10,000 homes located inside the original program boundaries. If at some point in the future the contour expands beyond the existing boundary, then a change would be considered.

### Who do I call for more information?

For more information on this issue and other noise abatement measures, please call 206-787-5393 and leave your name, address, and phone number. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.