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Measuring Noise At Swamp Jetport

Staff Correspondent.

CHATHAM—Township Committeeman John C. Albrecht has made measurements which, he says, show that noise from jets at the proposed Great Swamp airport would be up to 10 times louder than aircraft already flying over the area.

Using a \$300 Scott noise meter, Albrecht measured sound from passing planes, mostly from Newark Airport, at 52 to 60 decibels. The sound level at the edge of the new airport would be 112 decibels, according to the Port of New York Authority, which plans the field.

The committeeman said the noise from the present air traffic is strong enough to drown out ordinary conversation when windows are open. He measured the decibel rating of human speech and passing cars at 48 to 50 decibels.

Although the number of decibels would only double, according to Albrecht, the pressure of the sound waves would range up to 1,000 times as great because each rise of six decibels indicates a doubling of the sound wave pressure. Yet the impact of the waves is cushioned by the ear so that this doubling of decibels would cause only about a tenfold increase in the amount of sound heard.

Albrecht is an engineer and patent attorney.

Albrecht said noise from planes does not dissipate as rapidly as the PA has contended. Thus, noise levels nearly as high as 112 decibels from low-flying jets would be heard in communities around the airport, he pointed out.

Noise is just one of the many problems that would be caused by the airport, Albrecht said. He added: "Knowing the physical effect of noise on the communities is such a basic thing in airport