

Suffern Paul

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 12:47 PM
To: Suffern Paul
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Alaska A-Paid Observers

Hello Paul,

I have some good news and some not so good news along these fronts.

First, the lease for Port Alsworth was crafted and signed. With the lease in place, all signs point to the installation of an automated observing system in Port Alsworth in the May/June time window. If the weather warms up faster, we may be able to perform the installation even earlier.

Regarding the dissemination of the observations from these "unofficial" platforms, the news isn't so good. I heard about a week ago that FAA HQ was not willing to grant the waiver that FAA Alaska Region requested. This was the request to waive the 90 day maintenance window for the automated platforms. Without the waiver, these observations will never be disseminated as METAR reports through traditional METAR channels.

As mentioned before, these observing platforms (and A-Paid stations) exist to meet NWS requirements. The purpose of these stations is not to provide aviation observations to pilots or FAA briefers. The purpose is to provide NWS forecasters with the necessary information to provide accurate aviation forecasts. The FAA in Alaska Region asked us to make these reports available through traditional METAR channels. We are willing to make this happen, but only if FAA HQ grants us the maintenance waiver. To this point, they are not willing to grant such a waiver.

Take care,
Mike

