

Denver to Seek Arsenal Land For Stapleton

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Denver will seek 1355 acres of surplus Rocky Mountain Arsenal land valued at \$2 million for future Stapleton Airfield needs, including a multi-million-dollar 8000-foot runway.

The city's interest in the land was disclosed Monday night when City Council joined Mayor Batterton in a formal request for the Army-owned land.

Both Adams County and Aurora reportedly are interested in the land and a controversy may develop over who gets it. The land is in Adams County.

The land is located on either side of the \$8 million north-south jet runway now under construction at Stapleton.

Value Estimate

If acquired it will give the city about half a mile of land on either side of the runway instead of only a quarter mile as at present.

City Aviation Director Richard Martin estimated the value of the 1355 acres at between \$2 million and \$3 million.

Batterton's application to the U.S. General Services Administration for the land said it is "vital to the continued growth and development of Stapleton Airfield."

He said acquisition of the property will prevent a critical jet noise problem which would result if the land were privately developed.

He also said it will assure air

safety by allowing the city to limit the height of structures and guard against a smoke hazard near the new runway.

The new runway is scheduled for completion late this year.

Lead to Obsolescence

Failure of Denver to acquire the land, Batterton said, would block airport expansion and "lead to the ultimate obsolescence of a \$40 million investment in airport facilities."

Future expansion plans, he said, call for construction of an 8000-foot general aviation runway parallel to and west of the jet runway between 1970 and 1985.

This runway, he said, will further reduce the noise west and south of Stapleton, which is the nation's third busiest airport.

The arsenal land reportedly was declared surplus last October, although its availability and the city's efforts to acquire it were not announced until Monday night.

In other action, council gave final approval to a request to the Metropolitan Capital Improvement District board for \$774,600 in sales tax funds when the money becomes available.