

[Contact Us](#)[Customer Service](#)[Advertising](#)[Subscribe Now](#)[Select a Publication or Community](#)

**kpcnews.com**  
Serving the Northeast Indiana Community



www.jomory.com  
**JoMory**

**24 Hour  
Emergency Service**  
**800-288-2269**



[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Obituaries](#) [Opinions](#) [Features](#) [Marketplace](#) [Business](#) [Share News](#) [Multimedia](#) [More](#)

## DeKalb County Airport ready to bury power lines

By Nichole Hacha-Thomas [nthomas@kpcnews.net](mailto:nthomas@kpcnews.net)

Thursday, August 25, 2011, 12:00am

AUBURN — The DeKalb County Airport runway extension project can move forward with burying power lines between C.R. 29 and C.R. 31, airport officials said.

The Federal Aviation Administration approved a categorical exclusion to allow the work to be scheduled. The burial will avoid height obstructions when the airport runway is expanded to 7,000 feet.

The burial previously was part of the airport's draft environmental assessment, which has yet to be approved by the FAA. Without the exclusion, work on any part of the assessment would have to wait for approval, said Paul Shaffer, a civil engineer and manager of airport development with Butler, Fairman and Seufert.

Burial of the power lines most likely will begin in mid-2012, officials said. Airport manager Russ Couchman said the airport will contact Indiana-Michigan Power to get the utility involved in the project, since the company will not allow any third-party to work on the lines.

Couchman said the exclusion keeps the airport expansion on track. The FAA's delay in approving the draft environmental assessment could have set the timetable back by months.

"In my opinion, taking the power lines out of the (assessment) means we can actually move forward on that," Couchman said.

Burying the power lines will cost nearly \$1 million, and the FAA will foot the bill, Couchman said.

To continue to keep the ball rolling on the expansion, Butler, Fairman and Seufert will begin working on a benefit-cost analysis, in an effort to get final approval on the draft assessment.

Once the assessment is approved by the FAA, the airport will advertise it publicly by placing it on display at the local library and the airport and making appropriate notices to the community. A public hearing to gather public input may be held.

Shaffer said the FAA is requiring the airport to conduct a benefit-cost analysis before the assessment is approved. This is a new rule for airport expansions of more than \$5 million, which Shaffer said is a byproduct of recent federal budget cuts. The runway extension is projected to cost between \$5-6 million.

"There is really no reason (the FAA) can't approve it now," Shaffer said. "The benefit-cost analysis is only being required because of all the cuts being made. (The FAA) wants to have another piece of paper to say (this project) is a good idea."

Even with the hurdles, Couchman and Shaffer said the expansion is needed to accommodate the number and types of aircraft taking off and landing at the airport. The alternative to FAA grants is paying for the runway extension locally, which isn't an option.

Airport officials said they hope to meet with representatives from the FAA in October for a capital improvement meeting, to state their case. With funding tight and other airports clamoring for funds, Shaffer said it is important to get the airport on the FAA radar.

Hi 135769,

[Log out](#)

**IQMeats**  
*Your Smart Choice*

**6188 CR 36 • Butler**

**868-1370**

**We accept EBT cards**

*Holiday Gift Guide*



### Letters to Santa

Let Santa know what you want in your stocking this year. [Click here.](#)

## STAY CONNECTED

[Facebook](#)

[Today's](#)

[Print](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Editions](#)

[RSS](#)

[KPC Yellow  
Pages](#)

### Top Ads

- Northway Inn Diner
- Hamilton House
- Albright's Supermarket
- Martin's Tavern
- Doc's Hardware - \$2 Off Coupon
- Auburn American Legion
- Hamilton Village Foods Special

[View All Listings](#)

### Top Jobs

- Assistant General Manager
- Chief of Police - Garrett, IN
- General Labor Position
- Journal Gazette Routes Available
- Machinist

"We are coming to a juncture in the project where we need the FAA to begin to make some decisions," Shaffer said. "We want to encourage them to support this project."

Recommend Send

Add comment

Empty text input box for comments.

1000 symbols left

Notify me of follow-up comments

Send

JComments

- Water/Wastewater Operator
- Certified Medical Biller

[View All Listings](#)

Top Realtors

- Wible Realty
- Real Living Homes and Beyond
- RE/MAX Results - Angola
- Orizon Real Estate, Inc.
- Lakefront Real Estate
- Mike Thomas Associates Realtors
- Homestead Acres, Inc.
- Anchor Realty
- Indiana Real Estate
- Action Realty

[View All Listings](#)

WEATHER

10-Day Forecast | Radar

21°

Clear


°F

Humidity: 86%


Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
38   25	41   34	43   40	49   29

VIDEO

[More](#)



[A new Westview team faced off against NorthWood in high school boys basketball](#)



[The Ryan Park Elementary School functional skills class put on its 10th annual](#)

**DARE TO COMPARE**

 MAY THE BEST CAR WIN

**HAROLD**

GM SUPERSTORE

CHEVROLET • BUICK

[www.haroldchevrolet.com](http://www.haroldchevrolet.com)

FENCE POST

[More](#)

- Section 1603 Grants
- My Occupy LA Arrest, by Patrick Meighan
- Music
- Racing Legend Joy Fair Dies
- NASCAR Champion Tony Stewart to Race...

- Blues Thread
- Angola Mother abandons 4 children?

## POLL

Who will you vote for for president in 2012?

- Obama
- Romney
- Gingrich
- someone else or won't vote

Vote

## STRANGE NEWS

- Police: Pa. man fakes mom's obit to get...
- Police: 2 Fla. women stole Christmas...
- Pa. ad executive sends holiday cards...
- Cat's 26 toes help boost Milwaukee...
- Maine soda-and-candy-powered car...

ADVERTISEMENT

See us at  
michianaevents.com

Need someone that speaks fluent insurance?  
I'm your agent for that.  
Paul E Stepp CLU, Agent  
406 West Maumee Street  
Angola, IN 46703  
**State Farm**

**Royal**  
Chevrolet • Buick • GMC  
(517) 227-5544

**F M** FARMERS & MERCHANTS STATE BANK  
fm-bank.com  
Member FDIC

**CAMERON**  
MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
(260) 665-2141  
www.cameronmch.com

### News

- Local News
- My Community
- Police Blotter
- Obituaries
- Business
- Weather
- Jokes

- Life
- Opinion
- Births
- Weddings/Anniversaries
- Columnists
- Features

### Sports

- Local Sports
- The Outdoor Page
- The Big Ticket
- KPC Triathlon

### Marketplace

- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Autos
- Coupons
- KPC Store

### More Info

- Advertising
- Subscribe
- Contact Us
- Customer Service
- e-Editions
- Commercial Printing
- Photo Reprints

- KPC Web Design
- KPC Mail Connection
- e-Alerts
- Webcams
- Photos
- Video