

Transfers of Safeguard components will apparently continue at a Madison, Wisconsin, airfield despite criticism from some residents of the city.

The components are being transported from a base in Illinois to antiballistic missile sites in North Dakota, with Madison as a transfer point.

Some residents have complained about helicopter noise near Truax Field in Madison and US Rep. Les Aspin, D-WI, a Pentagon critic whose district runs near Madison, has accused the Pentagon of allowing potentially dangerous operations at Truax Field.

Aspin said he was "surprised and shocked" to learn, apparently from Pentagon sources, that James Lison, Wisconsin adjutant general, had given the Army and Air Force permission to use Truax Field for the transfers.

However, in a telegram to Aspin Thursday, Lison said he has no authority to approve the flights or order their termination.

The components are being airlifted by CH 47 Chinook helicopters from northwest Illinois to airplanes and flown to Grand Forks Air Force Base, according to Army and Air Force spokesmen.

The components are reloaded onto helicopters at the base here and taken to nearby ABM sites in northeastern North Dakota, the spokesmen said.

Lison said Truax Field provides only minimal support for the operations and there is no reason to withdraw the support, which he said includes only use of a ramp, a temporary vacant hanger and some federal equipment to park and service aircraft and vehicles and make the transfers of the cargo onto the C 141s.

Last week Aspin said he assumed "nuclear materials and weapons" had passed through Truax Field although military officials refused to confirm or deny whether nuclear materials were involved in the transfer, citing "national policy."

Military spokesmen said they did not know who or what agency determined "national policy," but one said, "I guess it's just one of those Biblical things that comes down from on high."

Lison said the Army has assured him that the missile airlifts were no more hazardous than any other flights.

He said the Army told him although the missile components consist of explosives, they are unarmed and are specifically designed to preclude detonation even under what was called the remote possibility that an airlift might crash and burn.

Lison said the project should be completed by early summer. Asked how frequently the flights are made, a military spokesman said that was "classified information."