What Are Noise Barriers, Decibels & Receivers?

What Are Noise Barriers?

Noise Barriers are solid obstructions built between the highway and the homes along a highway. They do not completely block all noise, but they will reduce overall noise levels. Noise Barriers are usually constructed of formed concrete or fiberglass panels.

Noise Barrier Example

Effective Noise Barriers typically reduce noise levels by 5 to 10 decibels (dB) for first row receivers (or the area within approximately 500’ from the barrier).

What Are Decibels (dB)?

Decibels are the unit used to measure a sound’s strength. They are based on a logarithmic scale, rather than a linear one. Zero decibels (0 dB) is the quietest sound audible to a healthy human ear. At 194 dB sound waves become shock waves, where an object is moving faster than sound.

What Are Noise Receivers (or Receptors)?

Noise Receivers refer to an individual site or location (such as a residence, school, church, etc.) registering measurable sound levels.

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