



[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2016-9588; Airspace Docket No. 16-AAL-5]

Amendment of Class E Airspace, Soldotna, AK

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action modifies Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Soldotna Airport, Soldotna, AK. After review of the airspace, the FAA found redesign necessary due to procedure modifications. This action also removes reference to the Soldotna non-directional radio beacon (NDB) in the legal description and updates the geographic coordinates of the airport. This action enhances the safety and management of IFR operations at the airport and of aircraft within the National Airspace System.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, December 7, 2017. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under Title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at

http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. For further information, you can contact

the Airspace Policy Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal-regulations/ibr_locations.html.

FAA Order 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert LaPlante, Federal Aviation Administration, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA, 98057; telephone (425) 203-4566.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for this Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it amends Class E airspace at Soldotna Airport, Soldotna, AK, to conform the airspace size necessary for the current instrument flight rules (IFR) operations under standard instrument approach and departure procedures at the airport.

History

On March 23, 2017, the FAA published in the Federal Register (82 FR 14839) Docket FAA-2016-9588 a notice of proposed rulemaking to modify Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Soldotna Airport, Soldotna, AK. Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal to the FAA. No comments were received to the proposed rule.

Class E airspace designations are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.11B, dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document amends FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017. FAA Order 7400.11B is publicly available as listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document. FAA Order 7400.11B lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

This amendment to Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 modifies Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Soldotna Airport, Soldotna, AK. The segment extending from the 10.1-mile radius of the airport within 4 miles either side of the 270° bearing of the Soldotna NDB is revised from 4 miles to 2.4 miles with the reference to the NDB changed to the Soldotna Airport.

The segment extending from the 10.1-mile radius to 21 miles west of Soldotna Airport is modified to 11 miles west of the airport.

The segment within 4 miles south of the 090° bearing of Soldotna Airport is revised to 3.5 miles. This action is necessary because the airspace as previously configured exceeded the minimum size required for current arrivals and departures.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current, is non-controversial and unlikely to result in adverse or negative comments. It, therefore: (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a Regulatory Evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that only affects air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

The FAA has determined that this action qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures," paragraph 5-6.5a. This airspace action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment.

Lists of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71 --DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389.

§71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005. Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward from 700 feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

* * * * *

AAL AK E5 Soldotna, AK [Modified]

Soldotna, Soldotna Airport, AK
(lat. 60°28'31"N., long. 151°02'23"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 10.1-mile radius of the Soldotna Airport and within 2.4 miles either side of the 270° bearing of Soldotna Airport, extending from the 10.1-mile radius to 11 miles west of the airport, and within 3.5 miles either side of the 090° bearing of Soldotna Airport, AK, extending from the 10.1-mile radius to 14.3 miles east of the airport; and that airspace extending upward from 1,200 feet above the surface within a 73-mile radius of Soldotna Airport.

Issued in Seattle, Washington, on September 14, 2017.

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