



[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2017-1214; Airspace Docket No. 17-ASO-24]

RIN 2120-AA66

Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace, Knoxville, TN

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend Class E surface airspace at Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, Knoxville, TN, by adding to the airspace description the exclusion of a 1-mile radius around University of Tennessee Medical Center Heliport, to allow helicopters departing from the heliport to no longer require a clearance. Also, the BENFI non-directional beacon (NDB) has been decommissioned, requiring redesign of Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at McGhee–Tyson Airport. Controlled airspace is necessary for the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at these airports. This action also would update the geographic coordinates of Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, McGhee Tyson Airport, and Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport in the associated Class E airspace areas to coincide with the FAA’s aeronautical database.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to: U. S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Bldg Ground Floor Rm W12-140, Washington, D.C. 20590; telephone: 1-(800) 647-5527, or (202) 366-9826. You must identify the Docket No.

FAA–2017-1214; Airspace Docket No. 17–ASO–24, at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit and review received comments through the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed on line 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 FAA Order 7400.11B at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: John Fornito, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1700 Columbus Avenue, College Park, Georgia 30337 telephone (404) 305-6364.

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 would amend Class E airspace to support IFR operations in the Knoxville, TN, area.

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments, as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal.

Communications should identify both docket numbers and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. You may also submit comments through the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Persons wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this action must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. FAA-2017-1214; Airspace Docket No. 17-ASO-24." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

All communications received before the specified closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRMs

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's web page at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/airspace_amendments/.

You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office (see the ADDRESSES section for address and phone number) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An informal docket may also be examined between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, except federal holidays at the office of the Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, room 350, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, GA 30337.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document proposes to amend 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 Proposal

The FAA is considering an amendment to Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 to amend Class E surface airspace within a 4.5-mile radius of Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, Knoxville, TN, to exclude a 1.0-mile radius around University of Tennessee Medical Center Heliport. The University of Tennessee Medical Center Heliport requires this 1.0-mile cutout below 700 feet from the surface to allow helicopters to depart the heliport without an IFR clearance.

Also, the BENFI NDB has been decommissioned, requiring airspace reconfiguration of Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface at McGhee Tyson Airport, Knoxville, TN.

Additionally, the geographic coordinates of the Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, McGhee Tyson Airport, and Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport would be adjusted to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database.

Class E airspace designations are published in Paragraphs 6002 and 6005, respectively, of FAA Order 7400.11B, dated August 3, 201B, and effective September 15, 201B, 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.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. 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 will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed 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

This proposal will be subject to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, “Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures” prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

Lists of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 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 Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6002. Class E Surface Area Airspace

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ASO TN E2 Knoxville, TN [Amended]

Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, TN
(lat. 35°57'50"N., long. 83°52'25"W.)
University of Tennessee Medical Center Heliport, TN
(lat. 35°56'30"N., long. 83°56'38"W.)

Within a 4.5-mile radius of Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, excluding that airspace within a 1.0-mile radius of University of Tennessee Medical Center Heliport.

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

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ASO TN E5 Knoxville, TN [Amended]

McGhee-Tyson Airport, TN

(lat. 35°48'34"N., long. 83°59'43"W.)

Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport, TN

(lat. 35°51'28"N., long. 83°31'43"W.)

Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, TN

(lat. 35°57'50"N., long. 83°52'25"W.)

Monroe County Airport, Madisonville, TN,

(lat. 35°32'43"N., long. 84°22'49"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 15.4-mile radius of McGhee-Tyson Airport, and within a 13-mile radius of Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport, and from the 080° bearing from Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport clockwise to the 210° bearing extending from the 13-mile radius southeast to the 33-mile radius centered on Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport, and within an 8-mile radius of Knoxville Downtown Island Airport and within a 6.5-mile radius of Monroe County Airport, Madisonville, TN.

Issued in College Park, Georgia, on **April 24, 2018**.

GEOFF LELLIOT,

Acting Manager, Operations Support Group,

Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic Organization.

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