



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2024-1364; Airspace Docket No. 24-ACE-1]

RIN 2120-AA66

### Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-216 and V-380, and Revocation of VOR Federal Airways V-549 and V-551 in the Vicinity of Mankato, KS

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This action proposes to amend Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Federal Airways V-216 and V-380, and to revoke VOR Federal Airways V-549 and V-551. The FAA is proposing this action due to the planned decommissioning of the VOR portion of the Mankato, KS (TKO), VOR/Tactical Air Navigation (VORTAC) navigational aid (NAVAID). The Mankato VOR is being decommissioned in support of the FAA's VOR Minimum Operational Network (MON) program.

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

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments identified by FAA Docket No. FAA-2024-1364 and Airspace Docket No. 24-ACE-1 using any of the following methods:

\* Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

\* Mail: Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

\* Hand Delivery or Courier: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

\* Fax: Fax comments to Docket Operations at (202) 493-2251.

*Docket:* Background documents or comments received may be read at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at [www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/). You may also contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Colby Abbott, Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

## **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 the 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 modify the National Airspace System (NAS) as necessary to preserve the safe and efficient flow of air traffic.

### **Comments Invited**

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. To ensure the docket does not contain duplicate comments, commenters should submit only one time if comments are filed electronically, or commenters should send only one copy of written comments if comments are filed in writing.

The FAA will file in the docket all comments it receives, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed rulemaking. Before acting on this proposal, the FAA will consider all comments it receives on or before the closing date for comments. The FAA will consider comments filed after the comment period has closed if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. The FAA may change this proposal in light of the comments it receives.

*Privacy:* In accordance with 5 USC 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

### **Availability of Rulemaking Documents**

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the Internet at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's web page at [www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/airspace\\_amendments/](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 Operations office (see **ADDRESSES** section for address, phone number, and hours of operations). An informal docket may also be examined

during normal business hours at the office of the Operations Support Group, Central Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

### **Incorporation by Reference**

VOR Federal Airways are published in paragraph 6010(a) of FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 on an annual basis. This document proposes to amend the current version of that order, FAA Order JO 7400.11H, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023. These updates would be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. That order is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

### **Background**

The FAA is planning to decommission the Mankato, KS, VOR in February 2025. The Mankato VOR was one of the candidate VORs identified for discontinuance by the FAA's VOR MON program and listed in the final policy statement notice, "Provision of Navigation Services for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) Transition to Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) (Plan for Establishing a VOR Minimum Operational Network)," published in the *Federal Register* on July 26, 2016 (81 FR 48694), Docket No. FAA-2011-1082.

Although the VOR portion of the Mankato, KS, VORTAC is planned for decommissioning, the co-located Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) portion of the NAVAID is being retained. The TACAN would continue to provide navigational service for military operations and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) service supporting current and future NextGen PBN flight procedure requirements.

The VOR Federal airways affected by the Mankato VOR decommissioning are V-216, V-380, V-549, and V-551. With the planned decommissioning of the Mankato VOR, the remaining ground-based NAVAID coverage in the area is insufficient to enable the continuity of

the affected airways. As such, proposed modifications to V-216 would result in an existing gap in the airway being expanded; to V-380 would result in the airway being shortened; and to V-549 and V-551 would result in the airways being revoked.

To address the proposed modifications to the affected VOR Federal airways, pilots operating under instrument flight rules (IFR) may circumnavigate or fly through the affected area by requesting air traffic control (ATC) radar vectors since there are no alternate conventional airways available in the area. Additionally, pilots operating aircraft equipped with area navigation (RNAV) capabilities could navigate through the affected area point-to-point using the existing Fixes and waypoints (WP) that would remain in place or by using RNAV routes T-413, T-431, or T-468. Pilots operating under visual flight rules who elect to navigate via the affected VOR Federal airways may also take advantage of the ATC services and RNAV routes, if properly equipped, listed previously.

## **The Proposal**

The FAA is proposing to amend 14 CFR part 71 by amending VOR Federal Airways V-216 and V-380, and revoking VOR Federal Airways V-549 and V-551. The FAA is proposing this action due to the planned decommissioning of the VOR portion of the Mankato, KS, VORTAC. The proposed airway actions are described below.

**V-216:** V-216 currently extends between the Lamar, CO, VOR/Distance Measuring Equipment (VOR/DME) and the Mankato, KS, VORTAC; and between the Lamoni, IA, VOR/DME and the Janesville, WI, VOR/DME. The FAA proposes to remove the airway segment between the Hill City, KS, VORTAC and the Mankato VORTAC. As amended, the airway would be changed to extend between the Lamar VOR/DME and the Hill City VORTAC, and between the Lamoni VOR/DME and the Janesville VOR/DME. Additional amendments to the airway have been proposed in a separate rulemaking action.

**V-380:** V-380 currently extends between the Grand Island, NE, VOR/DME and the Mankato, KS, VORTAC. The FAA proposes to remove the airway segment between the

Hastings, NE, VOR/DME and the Mankato VORTAC. As amended, the airway would be changed to extend between the Grand Island VOR/DME and the Hastings VOR/DME.

Additional amendments to the airway have been proposed in a separate rulemaking action.

**V-549:** V-549 currently extends between the Hays, KS, VORTAC and the Mankato, KS, VORTAC. The FAA proposes to remove the airway in its entirety.

**V-551:** V-551 currently extends between the Salina, KS, VORTAC and the Mankato, KS, VORTAC. The FAA proposes to remove the airway in its entirety.

The NAVAID radials listed in the V-216 description in the proposed regulatory text of this NPRM are unchanged and stated in degrees True north.

### **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.

### **List 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 14 CFR 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 JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023, is amended as follows:

**Paragraph 6010(a). Domestic VOR Federal Airways.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**V-216 [Amended]**

From Lamar, CO; to Hill City, KS. From Lamoni, IA; Ottumwa, IA; Iowa City, IA; INT Iowa City 062° and Janesville, WI, 240° radials; to Janesville.

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**V-380 [Amended]**

From Grand Island, NE; to Hastings, NE.

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**V-549 [Removed]**

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**V-551 [Removed]**

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Issued in Washington, DC, on May 7, 2024.

Frank Lias,  
Manager, Rules and Regulations Group.

