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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2025-0400; Airspace Docket No. 25-AEA-4]

RIN 2120-AA66

Revocation of Class D and Class E4 Airspace; Establishment of Class E2 Airspace; Amendment of Class E5 Airspace Aberdeen, MD

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to remove Class D and E4 airspace at Phillips Army Airfield (AAF) due to the closure of the air traffic control tower. This action proposes to establish Class E2 airspace extending upward from the surface above Phillips AAF, Aberdeen, MD, at the request of the United States Army to provide the required airspace for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations at Phillips AAF. This action also proposes to amend Class E5 airspace to accommodate the decommissioning of Aberdeen non-directional radio beacon (NDB), and cancellation of the associated instrument approach procedures. Controlled airspace is necessary for the safety and management of IFR operations in the area for existing instrument approaches.

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

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by FAA Docket No. FAA-2025-0400 and Airspace Docket No. 25-AEA-4 using any of the following methods:

* Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

* Mail: 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 for 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 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 for Federal holidays.

FAA Order JO 7400.11J Airspace Designations and Reporting Points and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. You may also contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Policy Directorate, Federal Aviation Administration, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20597; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Robert Scott Stuart, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, GA 30337; Telephone: (404) 305-5926.

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 remove Class D and E4, establish Class E2, and amend Class E5 airspace in Aberdeen, MD.

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 edits, including any personal information the commenter provides, to

www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

Availability of Rulemaking Documents

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the Internet at 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/.

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 regular business hours at the office of the Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, Room 210, 1701 Columbia Ave., College Park, GA, 30337.

Incorporation by Reference

Class D and Class E airspace designations are published in paragraphs 5000, 6002, 6004, and 6005 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 7400.11J, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 31, 2024, and effective September 15, 2024. These updates will be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. FAA Order JO 7400.11J is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. FAA Order JO 7400.11J lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Proposal

This action proposes an amendment to 14 CFR part 71 to remove Class D and E4 airspace, establish Class E2 airspace, and amend Class E5 airspace for Phillips AAF, Aberdeen, MD.

This action proposes to remove the Class D and Class E4 airspaces extending upward from the surface above Phillips Army Airfield (AAF), Aberdeen, MD, as the air traffic control tower will be permanently closing and no longer providing air traffic control services.

This action proposes to establish Class E airspace extending upward from the surface that is required to support the existing RNAV approach servicing Phillips AAF and at the request of the United States Army. Controlled airspace is necessary for the safety and management of IFR operations for existing instrument approaches at Phillips AAF.

This action proposes to amend Class E5 airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface for Phillips AAF, Aberdeen, MD, to accommodate airspace reconfiguration due to the decommissioning of Aberdeen's non-directional radio beacon (NDB) and cancellation of the NDB approaches. The reconfiguration would remove the extension from the 8.3-mile radius of Phillips AAF extending clockwise from the 260° bearing to the 030° bearing from the airport leaving only the 6.9-mile radius Class E5 airspace that is required for existing approaches into Phillips AAF.

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 Department of Transportation (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 final regulatory action by the FAA.

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 FAA Order JO 7400.11J, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 31, 2024, and effective September 15, 2024, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 5000. Class D Airspace.

* * * * *

AEA MD D Aberdeen, MD [Remove]

Phillips AAF, MD
(lat. 39°27'56"N., long. 76°10'06"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface to and including 2,600 feet MSL within a 4.4-mile radius of Phillips AAF; excluding that airspace in Restricted Area R-4001A when it is in effect. This Class D airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The specific date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

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Paragraph 6004 Class E Airspace Designated as an Extension to a Class D Surface Area.

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AEA MD E4 Aberdeen, MD [Remove]

Phillips AAF, MD
(lat. 39°27'56"N., long. 76°10'06"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface within 2 miles each side of the 028° bearing from Phillips AAF, extending from the 4.4-mile radius of the airport to 9 miles northeast of the airport; excluding that airspace in Restricted Area R-4001A when it is in effect. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The specific date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

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Paragraph 6002. Class E Surface Airspace.

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AEA MD E2 Aberdeen, MD [New]

Phillips AAF, MD
(lat. 39°27'56"N., long. 76°10'06"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface within a 4.4-mile radius of Phillips AAF; excluding that airspace in Restricted Area R-4001A when it is in effect. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The specific date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

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Paragraph 6005. Class E Airspace.

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AEA MD E5 Aberdeen, MD [Amended]

Phillips AAF, MD
(lat. 39°27'56"N., long. 76°10'06"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 6.9-mile radius of Phillips AAF excluding the airspace in Restricted Areas R-4001A and R-4001B when they are in effect.

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Issued in College Park, Georgia, on March 28, 2025

PATRICK YOUNG,
Manager, Airspace & Procedures Team North, Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic
Organization.

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