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This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 05/22/2025 and available online at <https://federalregister.gov/d/2025-09210>, and on <https://govinfo.gov>

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2025-0946; Airspace Docket No. 25-ASO-11]

RIN 2120-AA66

Amendment of Class D and E Airspace over Hickory and Morganton, NC

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend the Class D and Class E2 surface airspace at Hickory Regional Airport, Hickory, NC, by increasing the radius to 4.6-miles and establishing an extension to the surface area due to standard instrument approach procedure and runway configuration changes. Additionally, this action would amend Class E5 airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface for Hickory Regional Airport, Hickory, NC, by increasing the radius to 7.1 miles and adding an extension. Lastly, this action would also amend Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface for Foothills Regional Airport, Morganton, NC, ensuring the required protection for standard instrument approach procedures, and would also update the airport's name and geographic coordinates and remove Grace Hospital from the description. Controlled airspace is necessary for the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations in the area.

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-2025-0946 and Airspace Docket No. 25-ASO-11 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: Christopher Stocking, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, GA 30337; Telephone: (404) 305-5887.

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 D and E airspace in Hickory and Morganton, NC.

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 U.S.C. 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, dated July 31, 2024, and effective September 15, 2024. These updates would 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 amend the Class D and E airspace at Hickory Regional Airport, Hickory, NC, and Class E airspace at Foothills Regional Airport, Morganton, NC. Controlled airspace is necessary for the safety and management of IFR operations in the area for existing instrument approaches.

This action proposes to amend the Class D and Class E2 airspace at Hickory Regional Airport by increasing the radius from 4.1-miles to 4.6-miles and by establishing an extension to the surface area that is within 2 miles each side of the 235° bearing of Tawba Nondirectional Radio Beacon (NDB), extending from the 4.6-mile radius of the Hickory Regional Airport to 5.2 miles southwest of the NDB. Additionally, this action proposes to amend the Class E5 airspace by extending the radius from 6.6-miles to 7.1 miles and adding an extension that is within 3-miles each side of the 055° bearing from Tawba NDB, extending from the 7.1-mile radius of the Hickory Regional Airport to 5.7 miles northeast of the NDB. The Class D and E2 airspace area is effective during the specific days and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective days and times will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

Lastly, this action proposes to amend Class E5 airspace at Foothills Regional Airport, Morganton, NC, by amending the confines, updating the airport name and coordinates, and removing Grace Hospital from the description to be consistent with FAA's database. The action will update the airport name from Morganton-Lenior Airport to Foothills Regional Airport and amend the Class E5 airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 8-mile radius of the Foothills Regional Airport and within 2 miles each side of the 205° and 023° bearing from Fiddlers NDB, extending from the 8-mile radius to 4.7-miles southwest and from the 8-mile radius to 18.2-miles northeast of the NDB; excluding that airspace within the Hickory, NC, Class E airspace area.

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.

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ASO NC D Hickory, NC [Amended]

Hickory Regional Airport, NC
(lat. 35°44'28"N., long. 81°23'22"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface to and including 3700 feet MSL within a 4.6-mile radius of Hickory Regional Airport and within 2 miles each side of the 235° bearing of Tawba NDB, extending from a 4.6-mile radius of the Hickory Regional Airport to 5.2 miles southwest of the NDB. This Class D airspace is effective during the specific days and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective days and times will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

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Paragraph 6002 Class E Airspace Designated as Surface Areas.

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ASO NC E2 Hickory, NC [Amended]

Hickory Regional Airport, NC
(lat. 35°44'28"N., long. 81°23'22"W.)

That airspace within a 4.6-mile radius of Hickory Regional Airport and within 2 miles each side of the 235° bearing of Tawba NDB, extending from a 4.6-mile radius of the Hickory Regional Airport to 5.2 miles southwest of the NDB. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective 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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ASO NC E5 Hickory, NC [Amended]

Hickory Regional Airport, NC
(lat. 35°44'28"N., long. 81°23'22"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 7.1-mile radius of Hickory Regional Airport, and within 3-miles each side of the 055° bearing from Tawba NDB, extending from the 7.1-mile radius of the Hickory Regional Airport to 5.7 miles northeast of the NDB.

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ASO NC E5 Morganton, NC [Amended]

Foothills Regional Airport, NC

(lat. 35°49'13"N., long. 81°36'41"W.)

Fiddlers NDB

(lat. 35°42'37"N., long. 81°40'17"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 8-mile radius of the Foothills Regional Airport and within 2 miles each side of the 205° and 023° bearing from Fiddlers NDB, extending from the 8-mile radius to 4.7-miles southwest and from the 8-mile radius to 18.2-miles northeast of the NDB.

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Issued in College Park, Georgia, on May 7, 2025

ANDREESE C. DAVIS,

Manager, Airspace & Procedures Team South, Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic Organization.

[FR Doc. 2025-09210 Filed: 5/21/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/22/2025]