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[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2026-8449; Airspace Docket No. 26-ASO-15]

RIN 2120-AA66

Amendment of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace Over Tri-Cities, TN

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final Rule

SUMMARY: This action amends Class D and Class E airspace over Tri-Cities, TN. Specifically, this action modifies the Tri-Cities Class D and Class E surface area airspace by expanding the radius and lateral boundaries to the northeast and removing the Tri-Cities Class E surface area extension airspace to the northeast. Additionally, this action modifies the Tri-Cities Class E transitional airspace beginning at 700 feet above the surface by expanding the lateral boundaries of the western portion of the airspace. Lastly, this action updates the airport name within the Class D and E legal descriptions and other outdated verbiage.

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC, February 18, 2027. The Director of the *Federal Register* approves this incorporation by reference action under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order JO 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), all comments received, this final rule, and all background material may be viewed online at www.regulations.gov using the FAA Docket number. Electronic retrieval help and guidelines are available on the website. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded from www.federalregister.gov.

FAA Order JO 7400.11M, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. You may also

contact the Airspace Regulation Group, Operational Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20597; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Rachel Cruz, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, GA 30337; Telephone: (404) 305-5571.

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 D and Class E airspace in Tri-Cities, TN.

History

The FAA published an NPRM for Docket No. FAA-2026-8449 in the *Federal Register* (91 FR 51604; August 11, 2026), proposing to amend Class D and Class E over Tri-Cities, TN. Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal to the FAA. Two comments were received. One comment was non-substantive. It identified a typographical error in the URL address for www.regulations.gov in the NPRM. The URL inadvertently omitted a letter.

The second comment expressed concern regarding the expansion of controlled airspace and the preservation of uncontrolled airspace. However, the commenter misinterpreted the NPRM and incorrectly believed that the expansion consists of the total preexisting Class E airspace volume. The FAA is adding a 1.7-mile extension to the current 9.3-mile radius of the

Class E airspace to support IFR operations. Furthermore, the extension is located over a ridgeline on Bays Mountain, not over a valley, so there should be no impact to VFR operations in valley areas.

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 amends the current version of that order, FAA Order JO 7400.11M, dated July 30, 2026, and effective September 15, 2026. These amendments will be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. FAA Order JO 7400.11M, which lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points, is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

The Rule

This action amends 14 CFR part 71 by modifying Class D and Class E airspace over Tri-Cities, TN. A review of the Tri-Cities, TN Class D and Class E airspace revealed a need to increase to the lateral dimensions of the Class D and Class E surface area airspace, as well as the Class E transitional airspace beginning at 700 feet above the surface, in order to contain current Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) operations, specifically departure procedures and the following IAPs: ILS/LOC RWY 5, RNAV (GPS) RWY 5, and RNAV (GPS) RWY 9. This action will increase the lateral dimensions of both the Tri-Cities Class D and Class E surface area airspace by 0.4 miles to be within a 4.7-mile radius of Tri-Cities Airport, and within 1 mile each side of the 042° bearing from the airport, extending from the 4.7-mile radius to 5.3 miles northeast of the airport.

This action also removes the Tri-Cities Class E surface area extension to the northeast as it will no longer be necessary to contain IFR operations after the modification to the Class D and Class E surface area airspace. In addition, this action increases the lateral dimensions of the Tri-Cities Class E transitional airspace beginning at 700 feet above the surface by adding a 1.7-mile

extension that is 4.2 miles wide to the western portion of the airspace while maintaining the current 9.3-mile radius from the airport and northeast and southwest extension components of the airspace. The western extension is within 2.1 miles each side of the 270° bearing from the airport extending from the 9.3-mile radius to 11 miles west of the airport.

Lastly, this action updates the airport name of Tri-Cities Airport in the Class D airspace and two Class E airspace legal descriptions. It also updates the superseded reference to the "Airport/Facility Directory" to "Chart Supplement" in both the Class D and Class E surface area airspace legal descriptions in accordance with current FAA naming conventions.

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 Order 2100.6B, "Rulemaking and Guidance Procedure" (March 10, 2025); and (3) is expected to result in, at most, de minimis costs from compliance with applicable operating requirements or minor flight rerouting for operators choosing to navigate around the controlled airspace. Since these amendments are routine and the expected impact to operators is de minimis, the FAA certifies 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 1050.1G, "FAA National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures," paragraphs B-2.5(a) and B-2.5(k). 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).

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 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 7400.11M, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 30, 2026, and effective September 15, 2026, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 5000. Class D Airspace.

* * * * *

ASO TN D Tri-Cities, TN [Amended]
Tri-Cities Airport, TN
(lat. 36°28'31"N., long. 82°24'27"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface to and including 4,000 feet MSL within a 4.7-mile radius of Tri-Cities Airport, and within 1 mile each side of the 042° bearing from the airport, extending from the 4.7-mile radius to 5.3 miles northeast of the airport. This Class D 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 6002. Class E Airspace Areas Designated as Surface Areas.

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ASO TN E2 Tri-Cities, TN [Amended]
Tri-Cities Airport, TN
(lat. 36°28'31"N., long. 82°24'27"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface within a 4.7-mile radius of Tri-Cities Airport, and within 1 mile each side of the 042° bearing from the airport, extending from the 4.7-mile

radius to 5.3 miles northeast of the airport. 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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6004. Class E Airspace Areas Designated as an Extension to a Class D or Class E Surface Area.

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ASO TN E4 Tri-Cities, TN [Removed]

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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 Tri-Cities, TN [Amended]
Tri-Cities Airport, TN
(lat. 36°28'31"N., long. 82°24'27"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 9.3-mile radius of Tri-Cities Airport and within 4 miles west and 8 miles east of the 223° bearing from the airport extending from the 9.3-mile radius to 23 miles southwest of the airport, and within 2.1 miles each side of the 270° bearing from the airport extending from the 9.3-mile radius to 11 miles west of the airport, and within 2 miles each side of the 043° bearing from the airport extending from the 9.3-mile radius to 14.5 miles northeast of the airport.

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Issued in College Park, Georgia, on November 20, 2026.

ANDREESE C. DAVIS,
Manager, Airspace and Procedures South Team,
Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic Organization.

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