

proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71— DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS D, AND CLASS E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIRWAYS; ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 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 7400.9F, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated September 10, 1998, and effective September 16, 1998, is to be amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

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AAL AK E5 Palmer, AK [New]

Palmer Municipal Airport, AK
(Lat. 61°35'41" N., long. 149°05'20" W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 6.5-mile radius of Palmer Municipal Airport.

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Issued in Anchorage, AK, on April 9, 1999.

Willis C. Nelson,

Manager, Air Traffic Division, Alaskan Region.

[FR Doc. 99–9776 Filed 4–19–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 99–ACE–19]

Amendment of Class E Airspace; Decorah, IA

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

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes to amend Class E airspace area at Decorah, IA. A Global Positioning System (GPS), COPTER GPS 339° point in space, Standard Instrument Approach Procedure (SIAP) has been developed to serve Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital Heliport, Decorah, IA. Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) is needed to accommodate aircraft executing the SIAP.

In addition, the Class E airspace for Decorah, IA, has been enlarged to conform to the criteria for 700 feet AGL airspace required for diverse departures as specified in FAA Order 7400.2D.

The intended effect of this rule is to provide additional controlled airspace for aircraft operating under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and comply with the criteria of FAA Order 7400.2D.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on the proposal in triplicate to: Manager, Airspace Branch, ACE–520, Federal Aviation Administration, Docket No. 99–ACE–19, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106.

The official docket may be examined in the Office of the Regional Counsel for the Central Region at the same address between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

An information docket may also be examined during normal business hours in the office of the Manager, Airspace Branch, Air Traffic Division, at the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Randolph, Air Traffic Division, Airspace Branch, ACE–520C, Federal Aviation Administration, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone number: (816) 426–3408.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking 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, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. Communications should identify the airspace docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this notice must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Airspace Docket No. 99–ACE–19." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. All communications received on or before the 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 comments

received. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the Rules Docket both before and after the closing date for comments. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Public Affairs, Attention: Public Inquiry Center, APA–230, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267–3484.

Communications must identify the notice number of this NPRM. Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future NPRMs should also request a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11–2A, which describes the procedures.

The Proposal

The FAA is considering an amendment to 14 CFR part 71 to revise the Class E airspace at Decorah, IA. A COPTER GPS 339° SIAP has been developed to serve the Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital Heliport, Decorah, IA. Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 feet AGL is needed to contain aircraft executing this SIAP. In addition, a review of the Class E airspace area for Decorah, IA, indicates it does not meet the criteria for 700 feet AGL airspace required for diverse departures as specified in FAA Order 7400.2D. The criteria in FAA Order 7400.2D for an aircraft to reach 1200 feet AGL is based on a standard climb gradient of 200 feet per mile plus the distance from the Airport Reference Point (ARP) to the end of the outermost runway. Any fractional part of a mile is converted to the next higher tenth of a mile.

The intended effect of this action is to provide segregation of aircraft operating under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) from aircraft operating in visual weather conditions. The area would be depicted on appropriate aeronautical charts thereby enabling pilots to circumnavigate the area or otherwise comply with IFR procedures. Class E airspace designations for airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.9F, dated September 10, 1998, and effective September 16, 1998, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document would be published subsequently in the Order.

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. Therefore, this proposed regulation (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 will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS D, AND CLASS E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIRWAYS; ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

§ 71.1 [Revised]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9F, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated September 10, 1998, and effective September 16, 1998, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

* * * * *

ACE IA E5 Decorah, IA [Revised]

Decorah Municipal Airport, IA
(Lat. 43°16'32" N., long. 91°44'22" W.)
Waukon VORTAC
(Lat. 43°16'48" N., long. 91°32'15" W.)
Decorah NDB
(Lat. 43°16'32" N., long. 91°44'11" W.)
Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital, IA
Point in Space Coordinates
(Lat. 43°16'57" N., long. 91°45'56" W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 6.4-mile

radius of Decorah Municipal Airport and within 2.0 miles each side of the 267° radial of the Waukon VORTAC extending from the 6.4-mile radius to the VORTAC and within 2.6 miles each side of the 122° bearing from the Decorah NDB extending from the 6.4-mile radius to 7.0 miles southeast of the airport, and within a 6.0-mile radius of the point in space serving Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital.

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Issued in Kansas City, MO, on March 18, 1999.

Herman J. Lyons, Jr.,

Manager, Air Traffic Division, Central Region.

[FR Doc. 99-9795 Filed 4-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 250

RIN 1010-AC41

Training of Lessee and Contractor Employees Engaged in Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend our regulations governing training of lessee employees engaged in oil and gas and sulphur operations in the OCS. We are proposing to establish a performance-based training system that would:

- Lead to safer and cleaner OCS operations;
- Allow the development of new and innovative training techniques;
- Impose fewer prescriptive requirements on the oil and gas industry; and
- Provide increased training flexibility.

DATES: We will consider all comments received by July 19, 1999. We will begin reviewing comments then and may not fully consider comments we receive after July 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may mail or hand-carry comments (three copies) to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from

the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wilbon Rhome, Industrial Specialist, or Joseph Levine, Chief, Operations Analysis Branch, at (703) 787-1600 or FAX (703) 787-1093.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 5, 1997, we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 5320) concerning the training of lessee and contractor employees engaged in drilling, well completion, well workover, well servicing, or production safety system operations in the OCS. The final rule streamlined the regulations by 80 percent, provided the flexibility to use alternative training methods, and simplified the training options at 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart O—Training.

The February 5, 1997, final rule did not sufficiently address developing a performance-based training system. This proposed rule retains some elements of our existing training program related to identifying minimum required training elements and affords lessees the flexibility to design a performance-based training plan and to ensure that their contractors are in compliance with such a plan.

On June 10, 1997, we conducted a public workshop in Houston, Texas, to get information pertinent to a revision of the February 5, 1997, Subpart O—Training regulation. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the development of a performance-based training system for OCS oil and gas activities. In the April 4, 1997, **Federal Register** notice (62 FR 18070) announcing the workshop, we stated that the goal of the meeting was to develop a procedure which ensures that lessee and contractor employees are trained in well control or production safety system operations by creating a less prescriptive training program focusing on results and not on processes.

To improve the regulations at 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart O—Training, the