

Revision 40 of the AFM specifies the maximum limit for oil pressure as 145 psi. Therefore, for the purposes of this proposed AD, the operational limits for maximum oil pressure is 145 psi, as specified in Revision 40 of the AFM.

#### Interim Action

This is considered to be interim action. The manufacturer has advised that a new modification is currently being developed that will positively address the unsafe condition addressed by this AD. Once that modification is developed, approved, and available, the FAA may consider additional rulemaking.

#### Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 185 EMBRAER Model EMB-135 and EMB-145 series airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to install the oil pressure sensor, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$3,562 per airplane. The FAA estimates that it would take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to install the oil tank pressure relief kit. Required parts would cost approximately \$2,421 per airplane. Additionally, it would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the revision of the AFM. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,151,255, or \$6,223 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this proposed AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

#### Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this proposal would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this proposed regulation (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption "ADDRESSES."

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

#### The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

#### PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

##### § 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

#### Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A.

(EMBRAER): Docket 2000-NM-321-AD.

**Applicability:** Model EMB-135 and EMB-145 series airplanes, serial numbers 145001 through 145369 inclusive, equipped with Rolls-Royce/Allison engine Models AE 3007A, AE 3007A1/1, AE 3007A1/2, AE 3007A1/3, AE 3007A1, and AE 3007A1P, certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (c) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent rejected takeoffs due to exceeding engine oil pressure limits, which

could result in reduced controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

#### Required Actions

(a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD: Accomplish the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD concurrently.

(1) Replace the engine oil pressure sensors with new sensors, per EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145-31-0021, dated August 1, 2000.

(2) Install an oil tank pressure relief kit per Rolls-Royce Service Bulletin AE 3007A-79-025, dated August 1, 2000.

(b) After completion of the actions required by paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD and before further flight: Revise the Limitations Section of the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) by inserting a copy of Revision 40 of the EMBRAER Model-145 AFM, dated August 11, 2000, into the AFM.

#### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Atlanta ACO.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Manager, Atlanta ACO.

#### Special Flight Permits

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

**Note 3:** The subject of this AD is addressed in Brazilian Notice of Proposed Regulations NPR/AD-2000-145-05, dated August 23, 2000, and NPR/AD-2000-AE3007-01, dated August 24, 2000.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on December 13, 2000.

**Dorenda D. Baker,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-32316 Filed 12-18-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### 43 CFR Parts 3195, 3196

[NM091-9971-EK-HE16]

RIN 1004-AD35

#### Federal Helium Program Regulations and Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Public Meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests comments and suggestions to assist in the writing of its regulations governing the Federal Helium Program. The rule would establish regulations for crude helium sales, helium pipeline and storage operations, helium reporting, and gas analyses to determine helium content. The rule would also revise and extend existing regulations for helium on Federal lands and for in-kind crude helium sales. The rule would help to manage the Federal Helium Program and to fulfill the requirements of the Helium Privatization Act of 1996. We encourage members of the public to participate in public meetings and to provide comments and suggestions to help to clearly define the requirements for the Federal Helium Program. Your help is specifically requested to identify and to offer comments and suggestions about conflicts between helium processes and procedures and those of other fluid minerals. We also ask you to request to be placed on BLM's mailing list if you wish to receive additional information.

**DATES:** We will accept comments and suggestions on the advance notice of proposed rule making until 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on March 26, 2001. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the dates of the public meetings.

**ADDRESSES:** Commenters may mail written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401LS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; or hand-deliver written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the electronic access and filing address. Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments will also be available for public review at 801 South Fillmore, Suite 500, Amarillo, Texas, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may contact Jeanne McCubbin, at (806) 324-2655, Connie Neely, (806) 324-2635, or Shirlean Beshir, (202) 452-5033. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the above individuals.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- I. Public Comment Procedures
- II. Background
- III. Description of Information Requested

**I. Public Comment Procedures**

Your written comments should:

- Be specific;
  - Explain the reason for your comments and suggestions;
  - Be about the issues outlined in this notice; and
  - Where possible, reference the specific section or paragraph of existing regulations which you are addressing.
- The comments and recommendations, which are most useful and likely to influence decisions on the content of the proposed rule, are:

- Comments and recommendations supported by quantitative information or studies, and
- Comments which include citations to and analyses of the applicable laws and regulations.

We are particularly interested in receiving comments and suggestions about the topics listed under section III. Description of Information Requested.

*Electronic Access and Filing Address*

Commenters may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to [WOCComment@blm.gov](mailto:WOCComment@blm.gov). Please submit comments as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters or encryption. Please include "ATTN: AD35" and your name and address in your message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (202) 452-5030.

*Public Meetings*

The following topics will be covered at each public meeting: (1) Helium on Federal lands; (2) pipeline and storage facility operation and maintenance; (3) crude helium sales; (4) reporting and data collection; and (5) gas analyses to determine helium content.

We will conduct public meetings on the following dates at the specified locations and times:

- Amarillo Field Office, BLM, 801 S. Fillmore, Room 447, Amarillo, Texas, on January 8, 2001, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Houston, Texas, Crowne Plaza (near Galleria), 2222 W. Loop South, on January 10, 2001, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Portland, Oregon, Doubletree Lloyd Center, 1000 NE., Multnomah, on January 17, 2001, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Aurora, CO (Denver area south of airport), Marriott, 16455 E. 40th Circle, on January 23, 2001, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Washington, DC, Capital Hilton, 16th & K Street, NW, on January 25, 2001, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The sites for the public meetings are accessible to individuals with physical impairments. If you need a special accommodation to participate in one or all of the meetings (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in alternative format), please notify the contact person listed in this notice no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. Although we will attempt to meet a request received, the requested accommodation may not be available.

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal Federal helium regulation record. If you plan to present a statement at the meetings, we will ask you to sign in before the meeting starts and to clearly identify yourself for the record. Your speaking time at the meeting(s) will be determined before the meeting(s), based upon the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate time available for the session. You will be provided at least five minutes to speak.

If you do not wish to speak at the meetings but you have views, questions, and concerns about regulations for the Federal Helium Program, you may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record at the meeting. You may also submit written comments and suggestions regardless of whether you attend or speak at a public meeting. See the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice for the procedures.

**II. Background**

The Federal Helium Program has undergone many changes since its inception in 1925. Its original purpose was to ensure supplies of helium to the Federal Government for defense, research, and medical purposes. With time, the program evolved into a conservation program with a primary goal of supplying the Federal Government with high-grade helium for high-tech research and aerospace purposes. The most recent adaptation of the program was through the Helium Privatization Act of 1996, which redefined the primary functions as:

- Operating and maintaining a helium storage reservoir and pipeline system;
- Providing crude helium gas by contract with private companies;
- Evaluating the Nation's helium-bearing gas fields; and
- Providing responsible access to Federal land for managed recovery and disposal of helium.

### III. Description of Information Requested

We are committed to carrying out the provisions of the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 167). Topics we are considering for the proposed regulations include, but are not limited to the following:

*Helium on Federal Lands:* We will enter negotiated agreements with private parties for the recovery and disposal of helium produced from Federal leaseholds. The agreements will primarily be with:

- (1) Existing gas processing plants which extract and sell Federal helium;
- (2) Parties building plants with helium extraction capability.

We want commenters to clarify topics on the processes and procedures which would enable economic helium production, extraction, and sales.

We will also strive to establish regulations to facilitate coexistence of the Federal Helium Program with that of the Federal Oil and Gas Program. We seek comments about the following:

- *Method of determining Federal ownership percentage of helium produced from secondary unit areas containing Federal helium.* Can the process used for Federal leaseholds (based upon acreage and mineral ownership) be used for secondary units?

- *Allowable production losses.* Is it reasonable to allow an 8 percent loss of helium from the wellhead to the point of sale before seeking compensation?

- *Helium drainage protection.* Can we use a method similar to the one used to protect oil and gas to protect helium?

- *Bonding for payment default and reclamation.* Should we require a separate bond to cover helium production? Should we allow operators to transfer oil and gas bonds to provide bond coverage for helium?

- *Plugged oil and gas wells.* Is there a way to encourage and enable economic helium production and extraction when oil and gas wells are plugged or targeted for plugging?

- *Incentives.* What incentives should we establish to encourage helium production from gas streams in close proximity to extraction plants or in areas with low British Thermal Unit (BTU) gas content?

*Crude Helium Sales:* We would like to receive comments and suggestions about the existing regulations for in-kind crude helium sales (43 CFR 3195). In addition, we request your questions, concerns, comments, and recommendations of ways to meet the requirements for disposition of the Federal crude helium in storage (stockpile) (50 U.S.C. 167).

*Reporting and Data Collection:* We would like to receive comments and suggestions about the helium data collection and reporting processes. Specifically, we seek comments and suggestions about the following:

- Is there a way for the oil and gas industry to include helium in their standard gas analysis process to enable better data collection of helium content of gas fields?

- What are the best ways for BLM to determine and confirm the location and amounts of helium resources outside the United States?

*Gas Analyses to Determine Helium Content:* We seek comments about the following:

- Would it be feasible for BLM to send a helium sample to your company lab or company contract lab for analysis and report the helium results? The lab analysis data would be compared to BLM's analysis.

- Could members of the oil and gas industry send replicate gas stream samples to the BLM laboratory, if requested?

Additional information about the Federal Helium Program is available on the Internet at *Helium—Regulations@nm.blm.gov*.

Dated: December 12, 2000.

**Sylvia V. Baca,**

*Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.*

[FR Doc. 00-32291 Filed 12-14-00; 3:47 pm]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-P**

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 73

[DA 00-2771; MM Docket No. 00-245; RM-9971]

### Radio Broadcasting Services; Alberta, VA and Whitakers, NC

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document requests comments on a petition for rule making filed by Broomfield Broadcasting, Inc. requesting the substitution of Channel 276C3 for Channel 276A at Alberta, Virginia and the reallocation of Channel 276C3 to Whitakers, North Carolina as the community's first local aural transmission service. The allotment Channel 299A to Alberta as a replacement for Channel 276C3 from Alberta. Channel 276C3 can be allotted to Whitakers in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance

separation requirements without the imposition of a site restriction. Channel 299A can be allotted to Alberta in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements without the imposition of a site restriction. The coordinates for Channel 276C3 at Whitakers are 36-11-23 North Latitude and 77-51-09 West Longitude. The coordinates for Channel 299A at Alberta are 36-51-56 North Latitude and 77-53-12 West Longitude. **DATES:** Comments must be filed on or before January 29, 2001 and reply comments on or before February 13, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, his counsel, or consultant, as follows, John C. Trent, Esq., Putbren, Hunsaker & Trent, P.C., 100 Carpenter Drive, Suite 100, P.O. Box 217, Sterling, VA 20167-0217 (Counsel for Broomfield Broadcasting, Inc., petitioner).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arthur D. Scrutchins, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 00-245; adopted November 29, 2000 and released December 8, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257), 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

Federal Communications Commission.

**John A. Karousos,**

*Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 00-32244 Filed 12-18-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-M**