

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 73

[Docket No. FAA-2001-8683; Airspace Docket No. 01-ASW-2]

RIN 2120-AA66

Proposed Modification of Restricted Area R-6312 Cotulla, TX

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes to raise the upper limit of Restricted Area 6312 (R-6312) Cotulla, TX, from the current 12,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to Flight Level 230 (FL 230) to provide airspace for high altitude release bombing training. No other changes to R-6312 are proposed.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You must identify the docket numbers FAA-2001-8683/ Airspace Docket No. 01-ASW-2 at the beginning of your comments.

You may also submit comments through the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office (telephone 1-800-647-5527) is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Regional Air Traffic Division, Federal Aviation Administration, 2601 Meacham Blvd; Fort Worth, TX 76193-0500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Rohring, Airspace and Rules Division, ATA-400, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

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, aeronautical, 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 Docket Nos. FAA-2001-8683/Airspace Docket No. 01-ASW-2." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. Send comments on environmental and land use aspects to: Commander Training Air Wing Two, ATTN: Mr. Arturo Villarreal, 205 Mitscher Ave., Suite 101, Kingsville, TX, 78363-5008. All communications received on or before the specified 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 NPRM's

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Additionally, any person may obtain a copy of this notice by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation

Administration, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, ATA-400, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-8783.

Communications must identify both docket numbers of this NPRM. Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future NPRM's should call the FAA's Office of Rulemaking, (202) 267-9677, for a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedure.

Background

The U.S. Navy has requested an increase to the vertical limits of R-6312 from 12,000 feet above MSL to FL 230 in order to provide airspace needed for conducting high altitude release bombing training. The current upper limit of 12,000 feet above MSL is not suitable for meeting this training requirement. No other changes to R-6312 are requested.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing an amendment to 14 CFR part 73 to raise the vertical limits of R-6312 from 12,000 feet above MSL to FL 230. This additional altitude is required in order to meet the Navy's requirement for high altitude release bombing training. No other changes to R-6312 are proposed by this action. Section 73.63 of 14 CFR part 73 was republished in FAA Order 7400.8H, dated September 1, 2000.

The FAA has determined that this 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 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 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 subjected to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1D, Procedures for Handling Environmental Impacts, prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 73

Airspace, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73—SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE

1. The authority citation for part 73 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.

§ 73.63 [Amended]

2. § 73.63 is amended as follows:

* * * * *

R-6312 Cotulla, TX [Amended]

By removing the current designated altitudes and substituting the following:

Designated Altitudes

Surface to FL 230, excluding the area west of a line between lat. 28°17'41" N., long. 98°47'56" W.; and lat. 28°11'56" N., long. 98°48'01" W.; and the area along Highway 624 extending ¼ mile each side where the floor is 1,000 feet AGL.

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Issued in Washington, DC, on March 30, 2001.

Reginald C. Matthews,

Manager, Airspace and Rules Division.

[FR Doc. 01–8438 Filed 4–4–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[CGD05–00–044]

RIN 2115–AE46

Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Chester River, Kent Island Narrows, MD

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish permanent special local regulations for fireworks displays held over the waters of the Chester River,

Kent Island Narrows, Maryland. These special local regulations are necessary to provide for the safety of life on navigable waters during the events. This action is intended to restrict vessel traffic in portions of the Chester River before, during and after the fireworks displays.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before June 4, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander (Aoax), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704–5004, or deliver them to the same address between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments and materials received from the public as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of this docket and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (Aoax), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704–5004, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief Warrant Officer R. Houck, Marine Events Coordinator, Commander, Coast Guard Activities Baltimore, 2401 Hawkins Point Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21226–1791, telephone number (410) 576–2674.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking (CGD05–00–044), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. The comment period for this regulation is 60 (sixty) days. This time period is adequate since the event is well publicized in the local maritime community. If you would like to know that your comments reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander

(Aoax), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704–5004, explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

At various times throughout the year, fireworks displays are held over the waters of the Chester River, Kent Island Narrows, Maryland. The events consist of pyrotechnic displays fired from a barge positioned north of Kent Island Narrows, Maryland. A fleet of spectator vessels gathers nearby to view the fireworks displays. Due to the dangers inherent in fireworks displays, vessel traffic will need to be temporarily restricted to provide for the safety of spectators and transiting vessels.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The Coast Guard will establish special local regulations on specified waters of the Chester River for fireworks displays. The special local regulations will restrict general navigation in the regulated area before, during and after the events. Except for persons or vessels authorized by the Coast Guard Patrol Commander, no person or vessel may enter or remain in the regulated area. These regulations are needed to control vessel traffic during the fireworks display to enhance the safety of spectators and transiting vessels.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposed rule is not a “significant regulatory action” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979).

We expect the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary.

Although this proposed regulation will prevent traffic from transiting a portion of the Chester River during the events, the effect of this regulation will not be significant due to the limited duration that the regulated area will be in effect and the extensive advance notifications that will be made to the maritime community via the Local Notice to Mariners, marine information broadcasts, and area newspapers, so