Paragraph 6004 Class E Airspace Areas Designated as an Extension to a Class D or Class E Surface Area.

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AWP AZ E4 Grand Canyon, AZ [Amended]

Grand Canyon National Park Airport, AZ
(Lat. 35°57′09″N, long. 112°08′49″W)

That airspace extending upward from the surface within 2.4 miles each side of the 213° bearing from the airport, extending from the airport's 4.3-mile radius to 6.6 miles southwest of the airport. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Air Missions. The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

Paragraph 6005 Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward From 700 Feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

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AWP AZ E5 Grand Canyon, AZ [Amended]

Grand Canyon National Park Airport, AZ
(Lat. 35°57′09″N, long. 112°08′49″W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 4.8-mile radius of the airport and within 2.9 miles each side of the 213° bearing from the airport extending from the 4.8-mile radius to 7.1 miles southwest of the airport.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on September 21, 2022.

B.G. Chew,

Group Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2022–0578; Airspace Docket No. 21–AWP–60]

RIN 2120–AA66

Modification & Removal of Class E Airspace; Valle Airport, AZ

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action modifies the Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface, and removes the Class E airspace extending upward from 1,200 feet above the surface at Valle Airport, Grand Canyon, AZ. Additionally, this action makes administrative changes to the existing Class E legal description. These actions will ensure the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at the airport.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, December 29, 2022. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order JO 7400.11G, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at *www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications.* For further information, you can contact the Airspace Policy Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerald DeVore II, Federal Aviation Administration, Western Service Center, Operations Support Group, 2200 S 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone (206) 231–2245.

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 modifes and removes Class E airspace at Valle Airport, Grand Canyon, AZ, to support IFR operations at the airport.

History

The FAA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** for FAA–2021–0578 (87 FR 39023; June 30, 2022) that proposed to modify the Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface, and remove the Class E airspace extending upward from 1,200 feet above the surface at Valle Airport, Grand Canyon, AZ. Additionally, the NPRM proposed to make administrative changes to the existing Class E legal description. Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal to the FAA. No comments were received.

Class E5 airspace designations are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order JO 7400.11G, dated August 19, 2022, and effective September 15, 2022, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in FAA Order JO 7400.11.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document amends FAA Order JO 7400.11G, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 19, 2022, and effective September 15, 2022. FAA Order JO 7400.11G is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. FAA Order JO 7400.11G lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

The FAA is amending 14 CFR part 71 by modifying Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Valle Airport, Grand Canyon, AZ. This airspace modification removes the extensions north and south of the airport, as the extensions are no longer needed. Furthermore, to properly contain departing IFR aircraft flying toward or over rising terrain to 1,200 feet above the surface, the eastern portion of the airspace radius is increased from 6.4 miles to 6.8 miles.

Additionally, the FAA is removing the Class E airspace extending upward from 1,200 feet above the surface. This area is contained within the Los Angeles Class E airspace designated as a domestic en route airspace area, and duplication is not necessary.

Finally, the FAA is making several administrative modifications to the legal description. The city, name, and geographic coordinates at Valle Airport, Grand Canyon, AZ are updated to match the FAA's database.

Class E5 airspace designations are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order JO 7400.11G, dated August 19, 2022, and effective September 15, 2022, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in FAA Order JO 7400.11.

FAA Order JO 7400.11 is published annually and becomes effective on September 15.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

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, is non-controversial, and

unlikely to result in adverse or negative comments. 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, would 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 1050.1F, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, paragraph 5–6.5a. This airspace action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant the preparation of an environmental assessment.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the FAA 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 7400.11G, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 19, 2022, and effective September 15, 2022, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward From 700 Feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

* * * * *

AWP AZ E5 Grand Canyon, AZ [Amended]

Valle Airport, AZ

(Lat. 35°39′02″ N, long. 112°08′53″ W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 6.8-mile radius of the airport beginning at the 020° bearing from the airport clockwise to the 190° bearing from the airport, and within a 6.4-mile radius of the airport beginning at the 190° bearing from the airport clockwise to the 020° bearing from the airport.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on September 27, 2022.

B.G. Chew,

Group Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

[FR Doc. 2022–21346 Filed 9–30–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

15 CFR Part 998

[Docket No. 220927–0201]

RIN 0648–BL23

Protected Communications; Prohibition of Retaliatory Personnel Actions

AGENCY: Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: On December 23, 2020, the President signed into law the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020, which applies the Military Whistleblower Protection Act to officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps). This final rule provides regulations pursuant to Section 207 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020 and applies the Military Whistleblower Protection Act to the NOAA Corps to align Department of Commerce policy and procedure with this law.

DATES: This rule is effective November 2, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LCDR Zachary Cress, NOAA Corps, OMAO Strategic Management Division, (301) 713–1045.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As members of a uniformed service, NOAA Corps officers are not covered under the Whistleblower Protection Act (5 U.S.C. 2302). Furthermore, prior to the enactment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116–259, ''the NCAA''), NOAA Corps officers were also not covered by the Military Whistleblower Protection Act (10 U.S.C. 1034), leaving them without statutory protection for whistleblowing activities.

Protected Communications; Prohibition of Retaliatory Personnel Actions

Section 207 of the NCAA applies the Military Whistleblower Protection Act to the NOAA Corps and authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to prescribe regulations to carry out the application of that law, including by prescribing such administrative procedures for investigation and appeal within the NOAA Corps as the Secretary considers appropriate. The Military Whistleblower Protection Act prohibits taking or threatening to take an unfavorable personnel action, or withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action, in reprisal against a member of the Armed Forces for protected communications. Protected communications are lawful communications to a Member of Congress, an Inspector General, any person or organization in the member's chain of command, and any other person or organization authorized to receive such protected communications. By contrast, a communication is unlawful, and is therefore not a protected communication, where it is prohibited by statute or regulation, including information that is classified, a trade secret, or commercial in nature, or information concerning a personal privacy interest. The Military Whistleblower Protection Act also permits the correction of military records when a prohibited personnel action is taken.

NOAA Corps officers generally have a duty to report information evidencing a violation of law or regulation (including sexual harassment or discrimination), gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds or other resources, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. This final rule protects lawful disclosures of such information, and implements the Military Whistleblower Protection Act for the NOAA Corps pursuant to Section 207 of the NCAA, prohibiting any NOAA Corps officer or employee of the Department of Commerce from taking or threatening to take a personnel action, or withholding or threatening to withhold a personnel action against a NOAA Corps officer for making or preparing or being perceived as making or preparing a protected communication.