

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. FAA-2016-9139; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-023-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The FAA is withdrawing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that proposed to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would have applied to certain Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Models MU-2B-10, MU-2B-15, MU-2B-20, MU-2B-25, MU-2B-26, MU-2B-26A, MU-2B-30, MU-2B-35, MU-2B-36, MU-2B-36A, MU-2B-40, and MU-2B-60 airplanes. The NPRM resulted from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product and would have required repetitively inspecting the wing spacer plates for cracks until they were replaced with an improved design wing spacer plates. Since issuance of the NPRM, we determined that damage is contained to the wing spacer plate with no evidence that primary structure is affected. Accordingly, the NPRM is withdrawn.

DATES: As of February 28, 2019, the proposed rule, which published in the **Federal Register** on September 16, 2016 (81 FR 63725), is withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bang Nguyen, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Fort Worth ACO Branch, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, Texas 76177; telephone: (817) 222-4973; fax: (817) 222-5785; email: bang.nguyen@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued an NPRM that proposed to amend 14 CFR part 39 to add an AD that would apply to the specified products. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on September 16, 2016 (81 FR 63725). The NPRM was prompted by the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB), which is the aviation authority for Japan, AD No. TCD-8783-2016, dated June 28, 2016 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for certain Mitsubishi

Heavy Industries (MHI) Models MU-2B-20, MU-2B-25, MU-2B-26, MU-2B-30, MU-2B-35, and MU-2B-36 airplanes.

As part of the MHI MU-2B aging aircraft program, one-piece and three-piece main wings were subjected to detailed teardown inspections, and cracks were found in the wing spacer plates attached to the forward lower spar area at wing station 580. It was determined that the cracks resulted from fatigue caused by flight loads.

Japan is the State of Design for the MHI airplane models that the MCAI AD applies to: Models MU-2B-20, MU-2B-25, and MU-2B-26 with serial numbers (S/Ns) 102 and 121 through 347, except 313 and 321; and Models MU-2B-30, MU-2B-35, and MU-2B-36 with S/Ns 502 through 696, except 652 and 661. The United States is the State of Design for MHI Models MU-2B-10, MU-2B-15, MU-2B-25, MU-2B-26, MU-2B-26A, and MU-2B-40 with S/Ns 313SA, 321SA, and 348SA through 459SA; and Models MU-2B-36A and MU-2B-60 with S/Ns 661SA and 697SA through 1569SA airplanes. Japan is the State of Design for Models MU-2B-10 and MU-2B-15 airplanes, but has recently removed these models from the MHI Japanese type certificate. These models remain on the FAA type certificate; however, none of these airplanes are currently on the U.S. registry.

The NPRM proposed to require repetitively inspecting the wing spacer plates for cracks until they were replaced with an improved design wing spacer plates. The proposed actions were intended to detect and correct cracks in the wing spacer plates, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the wings and loss of control.

Actions Since the NPRM Was Issued

Since issuance of the NPRM, we have received data from operators who completed the inspections specified in MHI MU-2 Service Bulletin No. 245, dated April 21, 2016, and MU-2 Service Bulletin No. 107/57-005, dated May 3, 2016. During the inspections, no cracking in a primary wing structure has been detected. We have determined that damage is contained to the wing spacer plates without affecting the primary structure. Our analysis of fleet data also demonstrates that the wing spar and the wing spar cap maintains conformity with the structural requirements of the type certificate after complete fracture of the wing spacer plate. Neither the JCAB nor the manufacturer has provided the FAA with sufficient data that an unsafe condition exists. Therefore, we have determined that AD action is not

appropriate, and the NPRM should be withdrawn.

After we received numerous comments on the NPRM stating there is no unsafe condition, we requested additional information from JCAB to demonstrate that the cracks found in the spacers reduce the structural integrity of primary structure. JCAB replied that it took AD action because it is uncertain how the fatigue strength will be affected over the life of the airplane. In addition to the lack of conclusive data that there is an unsafe condition, we considered that removing the wing in order to perform the proposed corrective action may be more detrimental to the aircraft than the cracks themselves.

Withdrawal of this NPRM constitutes only such action and does not preclude the agency from issuing future rulemaking on this issue, nor does it commit the agency to any course of action in the future.

Regulatory Findings

Since this action only withdraws an NPRM, it is neither a proposed nor a final rule and therefore, not covered under Executive Order 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, or DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979).

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Withdrawal

■ Accordingly, the notice of proposed rulemaking, Docket No. FAA-2016-9139, which published in the **Federal Register** on September 16, 2016 (81 FR 63725), is withdrawn.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 19, 2019.

Melvin J. Johnson,

Aircraft Certification Service, Deputy Director, Policy and Innovation Division, AIR-601.

[FR Doc. 2019-03397 Filed 2-27-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 71**

[Docket No. FAA-2019-0041; Airspace Docket No. 19-AGL-6]

RIN 2120-AA66

Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mount Vernon, IL

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend the Class E surface area and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Mount Vernon Airport, Mount Vernon, IL. The FAA is proposing this action as the result of an airspace review caused by the decommissioning of the Mount Vernon VHF omnidirectional range (VOR) navigation aid, which provided navigation information for the instrument procedures at this airport, as part of the VOR Minimum Operational Network (MON) Program. The geographic coordinates and name of the airport would also be updated to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database. Airspace redesign is necessary for the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at this airport.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 15, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 366-9826, or (800) 647-5527. You must identify FAA Docket No. FAA-2019-0041; Airspace Docket No. 19-AGL-6, at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit comments through the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

FAA Order 7400.11C, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at http://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. The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of FAA Order 7400.11C at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

FAA Order 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Claypool, Federal Aviation

Administration, Operations Support Group, Central Service Center, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222-5711.

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 would amend Class E surface area and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Mount Vernon Airport, Mount Vernon, IL, to support IFR operations at this airport.

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 both docket numbers 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 No. FAA-2019-0041; Airspace Docket No. 19-AGL-6." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

All communications received 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 the comments received. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRMs

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's web page at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/airspace_amendments/.

You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office (see the **ADDRESSES** section for the address and phone number) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization, Central Service Center, Operations Support Group, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document proposes to amend FAA Order 7400.11C, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 13, 2018, and effective September 15, 2018. FAA Order 7400.11C is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. FAA Order 7400.11C lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing an amendment to Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 by:

Amending the Class E surface area to within a 4.1-mile radius (reduced from a 4.2-mile radius) at Mount Vernon Airport, Mount Vernon, IL, and removing the Mount Vernon VOR/DME and the associate extension from the airspace legal description;

And amending the Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Mount Vernon Airport, Mount Vernon, IL, by removing the Mount Vernon VOR/DME and the associated extension from the airspace legal description; and by updating the name of the airport (formerly Mount Vernon/Outland Airport) and the geographic coordinates of the airport to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database.

This action is necessary due to an airspace review caused by the decommissioning of the Mount Vernon VOR, which provided navigation information for the instrument

procedures at these airports, as part of the VOR MON Program.

Class E airspace designations are published in paragraph 6002 and 6005 of FAA Order 7400.11C, dated August 13, 2018, and effective September 15, 2018, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

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

This proposal will be subject to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures" prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

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, 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 7400.11C,

Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 13, 2018, and effective September 15, 2018, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6002 Class E Airspace Areas Designated as Surface Areas.

* * * * *

AGL IL E2 Mount Vernon, IL [Amended]

Mount Vernon Airport, IL
(Lat. 38°19'24" N, long. 88°51'31" W)

Within a 4.1-mile radius of Mount Vernon Airport.

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

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AGL IL E5 Mount Vernon, IL [Amended]

Mount Vernon Airport, IL
(Lat. 38°19'24" N, long. 88°51'31" W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 6.6-mile radius of Mount Vernon Airport.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 20, 2019.

John Witucki,

*Acting Manager, Operations Support Group,
ATO Central Service Center.*

[FR Doc. 2019–03285 Filed 2–27–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2019–0035; Airspace
Docket No. 19–ASW–2]

RIN. 2120–AA66

Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace; Brady, TX

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to modify Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Brady, Curtis Field, Brady, TX. This action is necessary due to the decommissioning of the Brady non-directional radio beacon (NDB), and cancellation of the NDB approach. It would enhance the safety and management of standard instrument approach procedures for instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at this airport. Additionally, the geographic coordinates are being updated to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 15, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 366–9826, or 1–800–647–5527. You must identify FAA Docket No. FAA–2019–0035; Airspace Docket No. 19–ASW–2, at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit comments through the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

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FAA Order 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Witucki, Federal Aviation Administration, Operations Support Group, Central Service Center, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5900.

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 would amend Class E airspace extending