

any draft AOs; if the Commission does not release a copy of all draft AOs under consideration at least one week before the open meeting at which the draft AOs are to be considered, the requestor is automatically entitled to appear before the Commission at that meeting.⁹

On February 10, 2016, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from Make Your Laws PAC, Inc., Make Your Laws Advocacy, Inc., Make Your Laws, Inc., and Dan Backer, Esq. (“Petition”). The Petition asked the Commission to amend 11 CFR 112.3 to provide a right to the public to comment on draft AOs with a fixed comment period and a requirement that the Commission publish “redlines”—copies of documents showing the differences between drafts—when releasing multiple draft AOs.¹⁰ The Petition argued that the “spirit of the rule is to encourage the public to participate in the Commission’s decision-making process. However, without the corresponding draft opinions, requests alone may not enable the public to fully appreciate the impact of such requests or to make fully informed comments.”¹¹

The Commission published a Notification of Availability (“NOA”) on December 3, 2018, asking for public comment on the Petition.¹² The Commission received one comment in response to the NOA. The comment supported the Petition for several reasons. The comment argued that amending the regulation as proposed by the Petition would bring greater “transparency to the Commission’s advisory opinion process and to ensure the public has a meaningful opportunity to weigh in” before the Commission votes on the drafts.¹³ The comment further stated that allowing comments on AO drafts is important because AOs, “in practice, often provide general answers to unresolved legal questions in a manner that affects broad categories of individuals and entities.”¹⁴

After considering the Petition and the comment, the Commission has decided not to initiate a rulemaking at this time. As outlined here, the Act and existing regulations provide for a meaningful opportunity for public comment on AORs; adding to that, the Commission has substantially expanded opportunities for public comment by committing to releasing draft AOs in advance, soliciting comments on those

drafts, and allowing AOR requestors to appear before the Commission when their AOR and any draft AOs are being considered.

Neither the Act nor existing Commission regulations require the Commission to accommodate this level of public participation in the AO drafting process. However, the Act and accompanying regulations do impose strict timing requirements on when the Commission must respond to AORs: as soon as 20 days and in no event later than 60 days after receiving a complete AOR. These are binding, bright-line requirements; the Commission cannot bend or break them. As a result, the Commission must balance its strict obligations under Federal law with any desire it may have to encourage participation by requestors and the public. To date, the Commission has done so by adopting policies that expand opportunities for public participation wherever possible while still retaining the flexibility the Commission requires to meet its obligations under Federal law. Those obligations are not insignificant; the Commission notes that 10 of the 20 or 60 days it is allotted to respond to a typical AOR are devoted to receiving public comments, each of which the Commission must consider in addition to analyzing the facts and materials submitted with the AOR, researching relevant legal authority, developing a legal theory and draft response, circulating drafts, and building a majority consensus behind a final opinion the Commission can approve.

For that reason, the Commission believes that creating additional, expanded, and strictly defined rights to public comment on draft AOs is not necessary and would likely prove unworkable within the Commission’s short deadlines for issuing AOs. Requiring the Commission to devote resources to marking up and circulating one or multiple draft AOs within a fixed timeframe, as proposed by the Petition, would unduly constrain the Commission in ways that could impair its ability to timely and effectively respond to AORs. The potential adverse effects of this constraint outweigh any prospective benefit to public input or transparency, particularly in light of the Commission’s existing policies ensuring robust public engagement.

For the above reasons, the Commission therefore declines to commence a rulemaking to amend its regulation at 11 CFR 112.3 to provide a right to comment on one or multiple advisory opinion drafts a certain amount of time in advance of the Commission meeting at which those

drafts will be discussed and to require the Commission to release “redlines” showing edits among multiple drafts.

Copies of the Comments and the Petition are available on the Commission’s website, <https://www.fec.gov/fosers/> (REG 2016–01 Advisory Opinion Procedures) and at the Commission’s Public Records Office, 1050 First Street NE, Washington, DC, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Dated: October 16, 2023.

On behalf of the Commission,

Dara Lindenbaum,

Chair, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 2023–23124 Filed 10–19–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2023–2027; Airspace Docket No. 23–AMN–15]

RIN 2120–AA66

Establishment of Class E Airspace; Antone Ranch Airport, Mitchell, OR (640G)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to establish Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Antone Ranch Airport, Mitchell, OR, in support of the airport’s forthcoming transition from visual flight rules (VFR) to instrument flight rules (IFR) operations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 4, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by FAA Docket No. FAA–2023–2027 and Airspace Docket No. 23–AMN–15 using any of the following methods:

* *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

* *Mail:* Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

* *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9

⁹ See Notice of Advisory Opinion Procedure, 74 FR 32160.

¹⁰ Petition at 4.

¹¹ *Id.* at 1.

¹² Rulemaking Petition: Advisory Opinion Procedures, 83 FR 62283 (Dec. 3, 2018).

¹³ Comment from Campaign Legal Center at 2.

¹⁴ *Id.*

a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

* *Fax:* Fax comments to Docket Operations at (202) 493–2251.

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at www.regulations.gov at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. You may also contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Drasin, Federal Aviation Administration, Western Service Center, Operations Support Group, 2200 S 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone (206) 231–2248.

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 the 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 establish Class E airspace to support IFR operations at Antone Ranch Airport, Mitchell, OR.

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. To ensure the docket does not contain duplicate comments,

commenters should submit only one time if comments are filed electronically, or commenters should send only one copy of written comments if comments are filed in writing.

The FAA will file in the docket all comments it receives, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed rulemaking. Before acting on this proposal, the FAA will consider all comments it receives on or before the closing date for comments. The FAA will consider comments filed after the comment period has closed if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. The FAA may change this proposal in light of the comments it receives.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

Availability of Rulemaking Documents

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at www.regulations.gov. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's web page at 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 Operations office (see **ADDRESSES** section for address, phone number, and hours of operations). An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the Northwest Mountain Regional Office of the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization, Western Service Center, Operations Support Group, 2200 S. 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198.

Incorporation by Reference

The Class E5 airspace designation is published in paragraph 6005, of FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 on an annual basis. This document proposes to amend the current version of that order, FAA Order JO 7400.11H, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023. These updates would be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. That

order is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H 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 14 CFR part 71 that would establish Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Antone Ranch Airport, Mitchell, OR, in support of the airport's forthcoming transition from VFR to IFR operations.

This airspace would extend 8.4 miles east and 10.4 miles west and northwest of the airport reference point (ARP). The configuration is designed to contain departing and missed approach IFR operations until reaching 1,200 feet above the surface on the Runway (RWY) 7 and RWY 25 RIFTE ONE (OBSTACLE) Area Navigation (RNAV) departures, and the RNAV (Global Positioning System [GPS]) M RWY 25 missed approach. Additionally, this proposal is designed to contain arriving IFR operations below 1,500 feet above the surface on the RNAV (GPS) M RWY 25 approach. This action would support the safety and management of IFR operations at the airport.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

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. 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 proposed 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 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

In consideration of the foregoing, 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 JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023, is amended as follows:

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

* * * * *

ANM WA E5 Mitchell, OR [New]

Antone Ranch Airport, OR

(Lat. 44°29'34" N, long. 119°50'38" W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within 2.2 miles either side of the 098° bearing extending to the airport 8.4-mile radius, and within 2.2 miles either side of the 278° bearing extending to the airport 10.4-mile radius, and within an area bounded by a line beginning at the 290° bearing at 10.4 miles, then clockwise along the airport's 10.4-mile radius to the 317° bearing, to the 327° bearing at 7.1 miles, to the 310° bearing at 4.1 miles, thence to the point of beginning.

* * * * *

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on October 13, 2023.

B.G. Chew,

Group Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

[FR Doc. 2023–23128 Filed 10–19–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

26 CFR Part 1

[REG–103525–23]

RIN 1545–BQ67

Plan-Specific Substitute Mortality Tables for Determining Present Value

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth proposed regulations that would update the requirements that a plan sponsor of a single-employer defined benefit plan must meet to obtain IRS approval to use mortality tables specific to the plan in calculating present value for minimum funding purposes (as a substitute for the generally applicable mortality tables). These regulations would affect participants in, beneficiaries of, employers maintaining, and administrators of certain retirement plans.

DATES: Written or electronic comments and requests for a public hearing must be received by December 19, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Commenters are strongly encouraged to submit public comments electronically. Submit electronic submissions via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov (indicate IRS and REG–103525–23) by following the online instructions for submitting comments. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted as prescribed in the “Comments and Requests for a Public Hearing” section. Once submitted to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn. The Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department) and the IRS will publish for public availability any comments submitted to the IRS’s public docket. Send paper submissions to: CC:PA:LPD:PR (REG–103525–23), Room 5203, Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 7604, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Concerning the regulations, Arslan Malik or Linda S. F. Marshall at (202) 317–6700 (not a toll-free number); concerning submissions of comments and requests for a public hearing, Vivian Hayes at (202) 317–6901 (not a toll-free number) or by sending an email to publichearings@irs.gov (preferred).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) prescribes minimum funding requirements for defined benefit pension plans. Section 430 specifies the minimum funding requirements that apply generally to defined benefit plans that are single-employer plans (that is, not multiemployer plans).¹ For a plan

subject to section 430, section 430(a) defines the minimum required contribution for a plan year by reference to the plan’s funding target for the plan year. Under section 430(d)(1), a plan’s funding target for a plan year generally is the present value of all benefits accrued or earned under the plan as of the first day of that plan year.

Section 430(h)(3) provides rules regarding the mortality tables to be used under section 430. Under section 430(h)(3)(A), except as provided in section 430(h)(3)(C) or (D), the Secretary is to prescribe by regulation mortality tables to be used in determining any present value or making any computation under section 430. Section 430(h)(3)(C) prescribes rules for a plan sponsor’s use of substitute mortality tables reflecting the specific mortality experience of a plan’s population instead of using the generally applicable mortality tables. Under section 430(h)(3)(C), the plan sponsor may request the Secretary’s approval to use plan-specific substitute mortality tables that meet requirements specified in the statute. If the Secretary determines that the proposed tables meet the statutory standards and approves the request, the substitute mortality tables are used to determine present values and make computations under section 430 during the period of consecutive plan years (not to exceed 10) specified in the request.

Under section 430(h)(3)(C)(iii), a substitute mortality table may be used for a plan only if: (1) the plan has a sufficient number of plan participants and has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to have credible mortality information necessary to create a substitute mortality table; and (2) the table reflects the actual mortality experience of the plan’s participants and projected trends in general mortality experience. Except as provided by the Secretary, a plan sponsor may not use substitute mortality tables for any plan unless substitute mortality tables are established and used for each plan maintained by the plan sponsor or a member of its controlled group.

Final regulations (TD 9826) under section 430(h)(3) were published in the **Federal Register** on October 5, 2017 (82 FR 46388). The final regulations issued

¹ Section 302 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, Public Law 93–406, 88 Stat. 829 (1974), as amended (ERISA), sets forth funding rules that are parallel to those in section 412 of the Code, and section 303 of ERISA sets forth additional funding rules for defined benefit plans (other than multiemployer plans) that are parallel

to those in section 430 of the Code. Pursuant to section 101 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, the Secretary of the Treasury has interpretive jurisdiction over the subject matter addressed in these proposed regulations for purposes of ERISA, as well as the Code. Thus, these proposed Treasury regulations issued under section 430 of the Code would also apply for purposes of section 303 of ERISA.