

effect of this proposal is to revise Class E airspace upward from 700 ft. above the surface to contain Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations at Ketchikan, AK.

The Special Instrument Flight Procedures developed for the Ketchikan Airport currently are not contained in Class E airspace. The FAA is proposing to revise Class E airspace at Ketchikan, AK, which would be sufficient to contain aircraft executing instrument procedures. Additional Class E controlled airspace extending upward from 700 ft. above the surface within the Ketchikan Airport area would be created by this action.

The area would be depicted on aeronautical charts for pilot reference. The coordinates for this airspace docket are based on North American Datum 83. The Class E airspace areas designated as 700/1200 foot transition areas are published in paragraph 6005 in FAA Order 7400.9M, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated August 30, 2004, and effective September 16, 2004, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designations listed in this document would be published subsequently in the Order.

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 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.

The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle 1, 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 1, Section 40103, Sovereignty and use of airspace. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to ensure the safe and efficient use of the navigable airspace. This regulation is

within the scope of that authority because it proposes to revise Class E airspace sufficient to contain aircraft executing instrument approaches at Ketchikan Airport and represents the FAA’s continuing effort to safely and efficiently use the navigable airspace.

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, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS D, AND CLASS E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIRWAYS; ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 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.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9M, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated August 30, 2004, and effective September 16, 2004, is to be amended as follows:

* * * * *

Paragraph 6005 Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

* * * * *

AAL AK E5 Ketchikan, AK [Revised]

Ketchikan International Airport, AK
(Lat. 55°21’20” N., long. 131°42’50” W.)
Annette Island VORTAC
(Lat. 55°03’38” N., long. 131°34’42” W.)
Ketchikan Localizer
(Lat. 55°20’51” N., long. 131°42’00” W.)
Clam Cove NDB
(Lat. 55°20’43” N., long. 131°41’47” W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within 2.0 miles each side of the Ketchikan Localizer east course extending from the Ketchikan Localizer to 9.0 miles southeast of the Ketchikan International Airport and within 1.8 miles each side of the 353° radial of the Annette Island VORTAC extending from 11 miles north of the VORTAC to the Ketchikan Localizer east course and within 1.9 miles either side of the Ketchikan Localizer west course extending from the localizer to 6.7 miles west of the airport and that airspace bounded by 55°24’49” N 131°53’23” W 55°27’30” N 132°03’10” W 55°31’20” N 132°00’30” W 55°27’27” N 131°48’35” W.

* * * * *

Issued in Anchorage, AK, on December 17, 2004.

Anthony M. Wylie,

Acting Area Director, Alaska Flight Services Area Office.

[FR Doc. 04–28554 Filed 12–29–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2004–19696; Airspace Docket No. 04–AAL–24]

Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Beluga, AK

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to establish new Class E airspace at Beluga, AK. There is no existing Class E airspace to contain aircraft executing instrument approaches at Beluga Airport. Adoption of this proposal would result in the establishment of Class E airspace upward from 700 feet (ft.) above the surface at Beluga, AK.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on the 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 number FAA–2004–19696/ Airspace Docket No. 04–AAL–24, at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit comments on the Internet at <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 Docket Office (telephone 1–800–647–5527) is on the plaza level of the Department of Transportation NASSIF Building at the above address.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Manager, Safety, Alaska Flight Services Operations, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513–7587.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jesse Patterson, AAL–538G, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513–7587; telephone number (907) 271–5898; fax: (907) 271–2850; e-mail:

Jesse.CTR.Patterson@faa.gov. Internet address: <http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at>.

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 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-2004-19696/Airspace Docket No. 04-AAL-24." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

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 public 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 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking's (NPRM's)

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's web page at <http://www.faa.gov> or the Superintendent of Document's web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

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 for this notice. Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future NPRM's should contact the FAA's Office of Rulemaking, (202) 267-9677,

to request a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedure.

The Proposal

The FAA is considering an amendment to the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR Part 71), which would establish new Class E airspace at Beluga, AK. The intended effect of this proposal is to establish Class E airspace upward from 700 ft. above the surface to contain Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations at Beluga, AK.

The Special Instrument Flight Procedures developed for the Beluga Airport currently are not contained in Class E airspace. To improve safety, the FAA is proposing to establish Class E airspace at Beluga, AK, which would be sufficient to contain aircraft executing instrument procedures. New Class E controlled airspace extending upward from 700 ft. above the surface within the Beluga Airport area would be created by this action.

The area would be depicted on aeronautical charts for pilot reference. The coordinates for this airspace docket are based on North American Datum 83. The Class E airspace areas designated as 700/1200 foot transition areas are published in paragraph 6005 in FAA Order 7400.9M, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated August 30, 2004, and effective September 16, 2004, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designations listed in this document would be published subsequently in the Order.

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 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.

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle 1, 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 1, Section 40103, Sovereignty and use of airspace. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to ensure the safe and efficient use of the navigable airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it proposes to create Class E airspace sufficient to contain aircraft executing instrument approaches at Beluga Airport and represents the FAA's continuing effort to safely and efficiently use the navigable airspace.

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, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS D, AND CLASS E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIRWAYS; ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 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.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9M, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated August 30, 2004, and effective September 16, 2004, is to be amended as follows:

* * * * *

Paragraph 6005—Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

* * * * *

AAL AK E5—Beluga, AK [New]

Beluga Airport, AK
(Lat. 61°10'20" N., long. 151°02'38" W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 5-mile radius of the Beluga Airport.

* * * * *

Issued in Anchorage, AK, on December 17, 2004.

Anthony M. Wylie,

Acting Area Director, Alaska Flight Services Area Office.

[FR Doc. 04-28555 Filed 12-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05-04-215]

RIN 1625-AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Chincoteague Channel, Chincoteague, VA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to change the regulations that govern the operation of the SR 175 Bridge, at mile 3.5, at Chincoteague, Virginia. The proposal would require hourly openings of the draw from 6 a.m. to Midnight year-round; except from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July, the draw need not be opened. At all other times, the draw need not open. The proposed change would reduce vehicular traffic congestion to increase public safety and to extend the structural and operational integrity of the movable span while still balancing the needs of marine and vehicular traffic.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before February 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander (obr), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 1st Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004. The Fifth Coast Guard District maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at Commander (obr), Fifth Coast Guard District between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Heyer, Bridge Management Specialist, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6629.

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 CGD05-04-215, 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. If you would like a return receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all submittals received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander (obr), Fifth Coast Guard District at the address under **ADDRESSES** 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

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns and operates this swing-type bridge. The current regulation requires the SR 175 Bridge, mile 3.5, at Chincoteague to open on signal except the draw may remain in the closed position to vessels from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July of every year.

On behalf of the Chincoteague Town Council (the Council), residents and business owners in the area, VDOT has requested a change to the existing regulations for the SR 175 Bridge. This proposal is an effort to schedule the number of drawbridge openings thereby reducing traffic congestion for public safety. By scheduling the number of openings this proposal will also extend the structural and operational integrity of the movable span, while balancing the needs of mariners and vehicular traffic transiting in and around this seaside resort area. SR 175 highway is also the principal arterial route that serves as the major evacuation highway in the event of emergencies or tidal flooding.

On June 28, 2004, we published a notice of temporary deviation from the regulations and request for comments entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Chincoteague Channel,

VA" in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 36011). The temporary deviation was an operation to test an alternate drawbridge operation schedule for 90 days and to solicit comments from the public. In accordance with the temporary deviation, from July 2, 2004 through September 29, 2004, the draw of the bridge opened every two hours on the even hour from 6 a.m. to midnight; except from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of July, the draw need not be opened. Finally, at all other times, the draw was not opened.

The Coast Guard received six letters and four petitions commenting on the provisions of the temporary deviation. Several comments from residents of the Town of Chincoteague favored the two-hour opening schedule. The commercial vessel owners favored a less restrictive hourly opening schedule. To ease vehicular traffic congestion, VDOT requested the movement of marine traffic be regulated. The Coast Guard reviewed the vehicle traffic information and bridge logs provided by VDOT. Bridge opening log data from 2001 to 2003 revealed that the highest concentration of vessel and vehicular traffic occurred during the peak tourist season from April to October. VDOT submitted a weekly vehicular traffic count for August 2004. The eastbound and westbound traffic counts revealed for August 19, 20, 21 and 22, that approximately 8150, 9729, 8365 and 7447 vehicles cross the SR 175 Bridge, respectively.

VDOT records reveal an increase in yearly bridge openings. For 2001 to 2003, the bridge opened for vessels 1789, 2063 and 2337 times during these years, respectively. During the peak tourist season for the same period, the bridge opened for vessels 1356, 1558 and 1761 times, respectively. With an average of only 12 openings per day (yearly) or approximately one opening per hour, restricting openings of the drawbridge hourly from 6 a.m. to midnight is not expected to seriously disrupt marine traffic, and is expected to substantially reduce vehicular traffic congestion.

This change is being requested to make the operation of the SR 175 Bridge more efficient. It will reduce vehicular traffic congestion to increase public safety and to extend the structural and operational integrity of the movable span while still balancing the needs of marine and vehicular traffic.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The Coast Guard proposes to amend the regulations governing the SR 175 Bridge, mile 3.5, at Chincoteague, which