DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

Proposed Amendment and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Manistique, MI

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to modify one VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Federal airway (V–78) and remove one VOR Federal airway (V–224) in the vicinity of Manistique, MI. The FAA is proposing this action due to the planned decommissioning of the Schoolcraft County, MI (ISQ), VOR/DME navigation aid (NAVAID) which provides navigation guidance for portions of the affected ATS routes. The Schoolcraft County VOR is being decommissioned in support of the FAA’s VOR Minimum Operational Network (MON) program.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 10, 2018.


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


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 40103 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 support the route structure in the Manistique, MI area as necessary to preserve the safe and efficient flow of air traffic within the National Airspace System.

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 (FAA Docket No. FAA–2018–0220 and Airspace Docket No. 17–AGL–24) and be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Management Facility (see ADDRESSES section for address and phone number). You may also submit comments through the internet at http://www.regulations.gov. FAA Order 7400.11B lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

Background

The FAA is planning to decommission the Schoolcraft County, MI (ISQ), VOR/DME in January 2019. The Schoolcraft County VOR was one of the candidate VORs identified for discontinuance by the FAA’s VOR MON program and listed in the Final policy statement notice, “Provision of...

With the planned decommissioning of the Schoolcraft County, MI, VOR/DME, the remaining ground-based NAVAID coverage in the area is insufficient to enable the continuity of the affected airways. As such, proposed modifications to VOR Federal airway V–78 and removal of V–224 would result in a gap in the enroute ATS structure in the Manistique, MI, area. To overcome the gap in the enroute structure, instrument flight rules (IFR) traffic could file point to point through the affected area using fixes that will remain in place, or receive air traffic control (ATC) radar vectors through the area. Additionally, the Schoolcraft County DME facility is planned to be retained and charted as a DME facility with the “ISQ” three-letter identifier. Visual flight rules (VFR) pilots who elect to navigate via the airways through the affected area could also take advantage of the ATC services previously listed.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing an amendment to Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 to modify the description of VOR Federal airway V–78 and remove VOR Federal airway V–224. The planned decommissioning of the Schoolcraft County, MI, VOR has made these actions necessary. The proposed VOR Federal airway changes are described below.

V–78: V–78 currently extends between the Huron, SD, VOR/Tactical Air Navigation (VORTAC) and the Saginaw, MI, VOR/DME. The FAA proposes to remove the airway segment between the Escanaba, MI, VORTAC and the Pellston, MI, VORTAC. The unaffected portions of the existing airway would remain as charted. V–224: V–224 currently extends between the Sawyer, MI, VOR/DME and the Schoolcraft County, MI, VOR/DME. The FAA proposes to remove the airway in its entirety.

All radials in the route descriptions below are unchanged and stated in True degrees.

VOR Federal airways are published in paragraph 6010(a) of FAA Order 7400.11B dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The VOR Federal airways listed in this document would be subsequently published in the Order.

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 Department of Transportation (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

§ 71.1 [Amended]

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:


§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 3, 2017 and effective September 15, 2017, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6010(a) Domestic VOR Federal Airways.

V–78 [Amended]

From Huron, SD; Watertown, SD; Darwin, MN; Gopher, MN; INT Gopher 091° and Eau Claire, WI, 290° radials; Eau Claire, Rhinelander, WI; Iron Mountain, MI; to Escanaba, MI, From Pellston, MI; Alpena, MI; INT Alpena 232° and Saginaw, MI, 353° radials; to Saginaw.

V–224 [Removed]

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 19, 2018.

Rodger A. Dean Jr.,
Manager, Airspace Policy Group.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Parts 154, 260, & 284
[Docket No. RM18–11–000]

Interstate and Intrastate Natural Gas Pipelines; Rate Changes Relating to Federal Income Tax Rate

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is proposing a process that will allow it to determine which jurisdictional natural gas pipelines may be collecting unjust and unreasonable rates in light of the recent reduction in the corporate income tax rate in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and changes to the Commission’s income tax allowance policies following the United Airlines, Inc. v. FERC decision.

DATES: Comments are due April 25, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments, identified by docket number, may be filed electronically at http://www.ferc.gov in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format. For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by mail or hand-delivery to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The Comment Procedures Section of this document contains more detailed filing procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam Eldean (Legal Information), Office of the General Counsel, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–8047, Adam.Eldean@ferc.gov.