SUMMARY: This action amends Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Memphis International Airport, Memphis, TN. Airspace reconfiguration is necessary due to the decommissioning of the Elvis non-directional radio beacon (NDB), and for the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at this airport. Olive Branch Airport, Olive Branch, MS, is removed from the airspace description to be reestablished in a separate rulemaking.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Fornito, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, GA 30337; telephone (404) 305–6364.

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 amends Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Memphis International Airport, Memphis, TN, to support IFR operations at the airport.

History

The FAA published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register (83 FR 19471, May 3, 2018) Docket No. FAA–2017–0754 to amend Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Memphis International Airport, Memphis, TN, due to the decommissioning of the Elvis NDB and cancellation of the NDB approach, and removal of Olive Branch Airport, Olive Branch, MS, from the legal description to redesignate it in a separate rulemaking.

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 E airspace designations are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.11B dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR part 71.1. The Class E airspace designations listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document amends FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 3, 2017, and effective September 15, 2017. FAA Order 7400.11B is publicly available as listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document. FAA Order 7400.11B lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

This amendment to Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 amends Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within an 8-mile radius of Memphis International Airport, Memphis, TN. The segment extending from the 8-mile radius of the airport to 16 miles west of the Elvis NDB is removed due to the decommissioning of the Elvis NDB and cancellation of the NDB approach, and for continued safety and management of IFR operations at the airport.

Also, this action removes the language that excludes the Millington, TN, airspace area to comply with FAA Order 7400.2L, Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters.

Additionally, the airspace listed in the legal description for Olive Branch Airport, Olive Branch, MS, is removed and redesignated in a separate rulemaking.

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. 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 only affects air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, does 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 preparation of an environmental assessment.
This action amends Class D airspace, removes Class E airspace designated as an extension, and establishes Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface at Olive Branch Airport, Olive Branch, MS. The Olive Branch non-directional radio beacon (NDB) has been decommissioned, requiring the redesign of the airspace. This action, also replaces the outdated term Airport/Facility Directory with the term Chart Supplement in the Class D legal description.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, September 13, 2018. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 51, subject to publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 3, 2017, is amended as follows:

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

ASO TN E5 Memphis, TN [Amended]

Memphis International Airport, TN (Lat. 35°02′33″ N, long. 89°58′36″ W)
General DeWitt Spain Airport (Lat. 35°12′03″ N, long. 90°03′14″ W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within an 8-mile radius of Memphis International Airport, and within a 6.4-mile radius of General DeWitt Spain Airport.

Issued in College Park, Georgia, on July 19, 2018.

Ryan W. Almasy,
Manager, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic Organization.
[FR Doc. 2018–16142 Filed 7–27–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71


RIN 2120–AA66

Amendment of Class D Airspace, Removal of Class E Airspace, and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Olive Branch, MS

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action amends Class D airspace, removes Class E airspace designated as an extension, and establishes Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface at Olive Branch Airport, Olive Branch, MS. The Olive Branch non-directional radio beacon (NDB) has been decommissioned, requiring the redesign of the airspace. This action, also replaces the outdated term Airport/Facility Directory with the term Chart Supplement in the Class D legal description.

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