

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 93**

[Docket No. FAA 2003–14715; Notice No. 03–05]

RIN 2120–AG34

Noise Limitations for Aircraft Operations in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) amends the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published on December 31, 1996 (Noise Limitations NPRM, 61 FR 69334; Notice 96–15), which proposed to establish noise efficiency limitations for certain aircraft operations at Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP). It proposes standards for quiet technology that are reasonably achievable, as mandated by Congress. The standards for quiet technology proposed in this SNPRM will help the National Park Service (NPS) achieve its statutory mandate to provide for the substantial restoration of natural quiet and experience in the GCNP. To meet this mandate, the FAA is proposing to use a noise efficiency approach (larger aircraft with more passenger seats are allowed to generate proportionally more noise) to define quiet technology. This SNPRM does not require any action by operators, as it is intended solely to make clear what the FAA is proposing as the standard for quiet technology.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. You must identify Docket Number FAA–2003–14715 at the beginning of your comments.

You may also submit comments through the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the entire public docket for this SNPRM at that same site.

You may also review the public docket in person in the Docket Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Office is on the plaza level.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas L. Connor, AEE–100, Federal Aviation Administration, 800

Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; Telephone: (202) 267–8933.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Comments Invited**

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. We also invite comments relating to the economic, environmental, energy, or federalism impacts that might result from adopting the proposals in this document. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. We ask that you send us two copies of written comments.

We will file in the docket all comments we receive, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed rulemaking. The docket is available for public inspection both before and after the closing date for receiving comments. Before taking any final action on this proposal, we will consider all comments made on or before the closing date for comments.

If you want the FAA to acknowledge receipt of your comments on this proposal, include with your comments a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the docket number appears. We will stamp the date on the postcard and mail it to you.

Availability of the SNPRM

You can get an electronic copy using the Internet by taking the following steps:

- (1) Go to the search function of the Department of Transportation's electronic Docket Management System (DMS) Web page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search>).
- (2) On the search page type in the last five digits of the Docket number shown at the beginning of this notice. Click on "search."
- (3) On the next page, which contains the Docket summary information for the Docket you selected, click on the document number for the item you wish to view.

You can also get an electronic copy using the Internet through the Office of Rulemaking's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/armhome.htm> or the Federal Register's Web page at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

You can also get a copy by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM–1, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by

calling (202) 267–9680. Make sure to identify the docket number, notice number or amendment number of this rulemaking.

Overview

This supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) amends the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published on December 31, 1996 (Noise Limitations NPRM, 61 FR 69334; Notice 96–15), which proposed to establish noise efficiency limitations for certain aircraft operations at Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP). It proposes standards for quiet technology that are reasonably achievable, as mandated by Congress. The standards for quiet technology proposed in this SNPRM will help the National Park Service (NPS) achieve its statutory mandate to provide for the substantial restoration of natural quiet and experience in the GCNP. To meet this mandate, the FAA is proposing to use a noise efficiency approach (larger aircraft with more passenger seats are allowed to generate proportionally more noise) to define quiet technology. This SNPRM does not require any action by operators, as it is intended solely to make clear what the FAA is proposing as the standard for quiet technology. Further, this SNPRM does not relieve operators of the currently established operational limitations. As this SNPRM does not require any immediate action by operators, it has minimal costs or benefits. Any eventual costs and benefits will be assessed in any later rulemaking recommendations of how the quiet technology standards are applied. All decisions about implementing these standards, including possible establishment of quiet technology routes, incentives to encourage adoption of quiet technology, imposition of a phase out of aircraft that do not meet the quiet technology designation or other actions will be dealt with through the advisory group procedures as directed by the National Park Air Tour Management Act. This SNPRM, as it disposes of the comments that the FAA received in response to the Noise Limitations NPRM (95–15), also offers a short history of the legislative and regulatory actions with respect to air tour operations in the GCNP.

History

Table 1 provides a timeline of events related to the effort to designate quiet technology requirements for commercial air tour operations in GCNP. These events are described in this and succeeding sections.

Beginning in the summer of 1986, the FAA initiated regulatory action to