

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** This action proposes to establish new Class E airspace in the Mentasta Lake/Mountains Area, AK. A commercial flight operator has identified a need to operate via Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) from Tok, AK off-airways, to/from Anchorage, AK. There is no existing Class E airspace below 14,500 feet in the vicinity of the area of Mentasta Lake/Mountains, AK to allow Anchorage ARTCC to provide IFR enroute services to accommodate the request. Adoption of this proposal would result in the establishment of Class E airspace upward from 1,200 feet (ft.) above the surface in the Mentasta Lake/Mountains Area, AK.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 6, 2003.

**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-2003-16075/Airspace Docket No. 03-AAL-18, 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 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 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 Regional Air Traffic Division, Federal Aviation Administration, Manager, Operations Branch, AAL-530, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513-7587.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Derril Bergt, AAL-531, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513-7587; telephone number (907) 271-2796; fax: (907) 271-2850; e-mail: [Derril.Bergt@faa.gov](mailto:Derril.Bergt@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-2003-16075/Airspace Docket No. 03-AAL-18." 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) by establishing new Class E airspace in the area of the Mentasta Lake and Mountains, AK. The intended effect of this proposal is to establish Class E

airspace upward from 1,200 ft. above the surface, to contain IFR enroute operations in the area of Mentasta Lake/Mountains, AK.

A commercial flight operator (Part 135) has identified a need for more direct IFR routings to/from Tok, Alaska. New Class E enroute controlled airspace extending upward from 1,200 ft. above the surface within the Mentasta Lake and Mountains area, Alaska would be created by this action. The proposed airspace is sufficient to contain aircraft proceeding to or from the south of Tok, AK direct to join or leave federal airways in the vicinity of Gulkana, AK. 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 1200 foot enroute domestic airspace areas are published in paragraph 6006 in FAA Order 7400.9K, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated August 30, 2002, and effective September 16, 2002, 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.

**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: