

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 7400.9L, *Airspace Designations and Reporting Points*, dated September 2, 2003, and effective September 16, 2003, is to be amended as follows:

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Paragraph 6006 En Route Domestic Airspace Areas.

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AAL AK E6 Southeast, AK [New]

That airspace extending upward from 1,200 feet AGL to the base of overlaying Class E airspace above 14,500 feet MSL, within an area beginning at lat. 58°54'25.2" N., long. 137°31'55.3" W. to lat. 58°38'33.2" N., long. 138°12'21.25" W., thence southeast along the offshore airspace 12 nautical miles west of and parallel to the shoreline to the point of intersection with the Alaska, United States/Canada Border, thence along the Alaska, United States/Canada Border to the point of beginning excluding that airspace designated for federal airways and excluding that airspace within the Ketchikan, AK Class E5, the Klawock, AK Class E5, the Wrangell, AK Class E5, the Petersburg, AK Class E5, the Kake, AK Class E5, the Sitka, AK Class E5, and the Juneau, AK Class E5 airspace areas.

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Issued in Anchorage, AK, on October 27, 2003.

Trent S. Cummings,

Manager, Air Traffic Division, Alaskan Region.

[FR Doc. 03–28824 Filed 11–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[CGD07–03–147]

RIN 1625–AA11

Regulated Navigation Area: Savannah River, Savannah, GA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to change the regulated navigation area to improve vessel traffic flow on the Savannah River during Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankship transits. Under the current regulation, vessels greater than 1600 gross tons are not permitted within the regulated area during LNG tankship transits without the express permission of the Captain of the Port. This proposed rule would allow all vessels greater than 1600 gross tons to transit the area during LNG tankship transits provided they come no closer than 2 nautical miles from the LNG vessel without specific authorization from the Captain of the Port.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Savannah, Juliette Gordon Low Federal Building, Suite 1017, 100 W. Oglethorpe, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Savannah 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 [CGD07–03–147], will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at Marine Safety Office Savannah, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Commander Lawrence Greene, at the Marine Safety Office Savannah; phone (912) 652–4353 extension 205.

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 [CGD07–03–147],

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 to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to MSO Savannah (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at the time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

The port of Savannah is currently receiving Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankships, ranging from two to eight vessels per month, at the Southern LNG Elba Island facility. The Coast Guard currently has a regulated navigation area (RNA) in effect for LNG tankship transits which restricts vessel movement from Fort Jackson, which is upriver from the Elba Island LNG facility, and continues down the length of the Savannah River and extends offshore to the Savannah River Channel Entrance Sea Buoy. After nearly two years of experience with LNG tankship transits on the Savannah River, the Coast Guard is proposing to change the current RNA to allow vessels of 1600 gross tons or greater to enter the RNA during LNG tankship transits, provided they come no closer than 2 nautical miles to the LNG tankship. Vessels less than 1600 gross tons will still be permitted to transit the RNA during LNG tankship transits provided they maintain a safe distance from transiting LNG tankships. This proposed rule would potentially reduce port congestion during LNG transits and decrease delays to vessels, facilities and terminals on the Savannah River. A safe distance of two nautical miles for vessels 1600 gross tons and greater is necessary to protect the safety of life and property on the navigable waters from hazards associated with LNG activities.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

During the movement of an LNG tankship, other vessels of 1600 gross tons or greater would be required to maintain a safe distance of two nautical miles ahead of, or astern of, the