

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 71**

[Docket No. FAA-2023-2006; Airspace
Docket No. 23-AAL-18

RIN 2120-AA66

**Amendment of Alaskan Very High
Frequency Omnidirectional Range
Federal Airway V-508 in the Vicinity of
Aniak, AK**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking
(NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to
amend Alaskan Very High Frequency
Omnidirectional Range Federal Airway
(VOR) V-508 in the vicinity of Aniak,
AK. The FAA is taking this action due
to the pending decommissioning of the
Aniak, AK, Nondirectional Radio
Beacon (NDB).

DATES: Comments must be received on
or before November 13, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified
by FAA Docket No. FAA-2023-2006
and Airspace Docket No. 23-AAL-18
using any of the following methods:

* *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to
www.regulations.gov and follow the
online instructions for sending your
comments electronically.

* *Mail:* Send comments to Docket
Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of
Transportation, 1200 New Jersey
Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West
Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC
20590-0001.

* *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Take
comments to Docket Operations in
Room W12-140 of the West Building
Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey
Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9
a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through
Friday, except Federal holidays.

* *Fax:* Fax comments to Docket
Operations at (202) 493-2251.

Docket: Background documents or
comments received may be read at
www.regulations.gov at any time.
Follow the online instructions for
accessing the docket or go to the Docket
Operations in Room W12-140 of the
West Building Ground Floor at 1200
New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington,
DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday
through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H, Airspace
Designations and Reporting Points, and
subsequent amendments can be viewed
online at [www.faa.gov/air_traffic/
publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/). You may also contact the
Rules and Regulations Group, Office of

Policy, Federal Aviation
Administration, 800 Independence
Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591;
telephone: (202) 267-8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Steven Roff, Rules and Regulations
Group, Office of Policy, Federal
Aviation Administration, 800
Independence Avenue SW, Washington,
DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

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 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
modify the airway structure as
necessary to preserve the safe and
efficient flow of air traffic within the
National Airspace System.

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested persons to
participate in this rulemaking by
submitting written comments, data, or
views. Comments are specifically
invited on the overall regulatory,
aeronautical, economic, environmental,
and energy-related aspects of the
proposal. The most helpful comments
reference a specific portion of the
proposal, explain the reason for any
recommended change, and include
supporting data. To ensure the docket
does not contain duplicate comments,
commenters should submit only one
time if comments are filed
electronically, or commenters should
send only one copy of written
comments if comments are filed in
writing.

The FAA will file in the docket all
comments it receives, as well as a report
summarizing each substantive public
contact with FAA personnel concerning
this proposed rulemaking. Before acting
on this proposal, the FAA will consider
all comments it receives on or before the
closing date for comments. The FAA
will consider comments filed after the
comment period has closed if it is
possible to do so without incurring
expense or delay. The FAA may change
this proposal in light of the comments
it receives.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C.
553(c), DOT solicits comments from the
public to better inform its rulemaking
process. DOT posts these comments,
without edit, including any personal
information the commenter provides, to
www.regulations.gov, as described in
the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-
14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at
www.dot.gov/privacy.

Availability of Rulemaking Documents

An electronic copy of this document
may be downloaded through the
internet at www.regulations.gov.
Recently published rulemaking
documents can also be accessed through
the FAA's web page at [www.faa.gov/air_
traffic/publications/airspace_
amendments/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/airspace_amendments/).

You may review the public docket
containing the proposal, any comments
received and any final disposition in
person in the Dockets Operations office
(see **ADDRESSES** section for address,
phone number, and hours of
operations). An informal docket may
also be examined during normal
business hours at the office of the
Western Service Center, Federal
Aviation 2200 South 216th St., Des
Moines, WA 98198.

Incorporation by Reference

Alaskan VOR Federal airways are
published in paragraph 6010(b) of FAA
Order JO 7400.11, Airspace
Designations and Reporting Points,
which is incorporated by reference in 14
CFR 71.1 on an annual basis. This
document proposes to amend the
current version of that order, FAA Order
JO 7400.11H, dated August 11, 2023,
and effective September 15, 2023. These
updates would be published in the next
update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. That
order is publicly available as listed in
the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H lists Class A,
B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic
service routes, and reporting points.

Background

In 2003, Congress enacted the Vision
100-Century of Aviation
Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 108-176),
which established a joint planning and
development office in the FAA to
manage the work related to the Next
Generation Air Transportation System
(NextGen). Today, NextGen is an
ongoing FAA-led modernization of the
nation's air transportation system to
make flying safer, more efficient, and
more predictable.

In support of NextGen, this proposal
is part of an ongoing, large, and
comprehensive T-route modernization
project in the state of Alaska. The

project mission statement states: “To modernize Alaska’s Air Traffic Service route structure using satellite-based navigation development of new T-routes and optimization of existing T-routes will enhance safety, increase efficiency and access, and will provide en route continuity that is not subject to the restrictions associated with ground-based airway navigation.”

As part of this initiative, the Aniak NDB is scheduled to be decommissioned. As a result, a portion of Alaskan V-508 will become unusable. This airspace action proposes to amend the Alaskan V-508 by revoking the portion of the airway that relies on the Aniak NDB. The FAA published a final rule for Docket No. FAA-2022-0245 in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 50018; August 1, 2023) effective October 5, 2023, establishing Area Navigation (RNAV) T-route, T-380. This RNAV route was established, in part, to provide alternative to VOR Federal Airway V-508. The portion of Alaskan V-508 that is proposed to be revoked is paralleled by T-380.

The Proposal

The FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 by amending Alaskan VOR Federal airway V-508. The proposed airspace actions are described below.

V-508: The Alaskan Federal Airway V-508 extends between the Middleton Island, AK, VOR/DME, Kenai, AK, VOR/DME, Sparrevohn, AK, VOR/DME and the Aniak, AK, NDB. The FAA proposes to revoke the portion of the Alaskan Federal Airway V-508 that extends between the Sparrevohn, AK, VOR/DME and the Aniak, AK, NDB. As amended, Alaskan Federal Airway V-508 would extend between the Middleton Island, AK, VOR/DME; Kenai, AK, VOR/DME; to Sparrevohn, AK, VOR/DME.

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 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

- 1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 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 FAA Order JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6010(b); Alaskan VOR Federal Airways.

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V-508 [Amended]

From Middleton Island, AK; Kenai, AK; to Sparrevohn, AK.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 20, 2023.

Karen L. Chiodini,

Acting Manager, Rules and Regulations Group.

[FR Doc. 2023-20732 Filed 9-25-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 401, 404, 415, 417, 431, 435, 437, 450, and 453

[Docket No.: FAA-2023-1858; Notice No. 23-13]

RIN 2120-AK81

Mitigation Methods for Launch Vehicle Upper Stages on the Creation of Orbital Debris

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: To limit the growth of orbital debris, the FAA proposes to require that upper stages of commercial launch vehicles and other components resulting from launch or reentry be removed from orbit within 25 years after launch, either through atmospheric disposal or maneuver to an acceptable disposal orbit. Any artificial object left in orbit around the Earth which no longer serves a useful purpose can become a debris hazard in space. Orbital debris is all such human-generated debris in Earth orbit that is greater than 5 millimeters (mm) in any dimension. Collisions between and with orbital debris are a growing concern because prior to the establishment of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) practices allowed these objects to accumulate in Earth orbit. Additionally, an increasing number of launch operators are launching assets into space at greater rates. If left unchecked, this accumulation can clutter useful orbits and present a hazard to operations on-orbit. This proposed rule would reduce the amount of additional debris created, as well as limit potential collisions with functional spacecraft and other debris already on-orbit.

DATES: Send comments on or before December 26, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2023-1858 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Take comments to Docket Operations in