

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2003-14848; Airspace Docket No. 03-AWP-5]

Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Susanville, CA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes to establish a Class E airspace area at Susanville CA. The establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Global Positioning System (GPS) Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (SIAPs) at Susanville Municipal Airport has made this proposal necessary. Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface is needed to contain aircraft executing RNAV (GPS) RWY 29 and RNAV (GPS)-A SIAPs. The intended effect of this action is to provide adequate controlled airspace for Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) operations at Susanville Municipal Airport.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this 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-2003-14848/Airspace Docket No. 03-AWP-5, 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 dispositions in person in the Docket Office between 9 a.m. and 5 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, Western-Pacific Region, Federal Aviation Administration, at 15000 Aviation Boulevard, Lawndale, California 90261.

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 the comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. FAA-2003-14848/Airspace Docket No. 03-AWP-5." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRM

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 document 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 procedures.

The Proposal

The FAA is considering an amendment to 14 CFR part 71 by establishing a Class E airspace area at Susanville, CA. The establishment of an RNAV (GPS) RWY 29 SIAP and an RNAV (GPS)-A SIAP at Susanville Municipal Airport has made this proposal necessary. Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface is needed to contain aircraft executing these two new procedures. The intended effect of this proposal is to provide adequate controlled airspace for instrument operations at Susanville Municipal Airport. Class E airspace designations are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.9K dated August 30, 2002, and effective September 16 2002, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document would be published subsequently in this 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. Therefore, this proposed regulation—(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 would 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).

Adoption of the 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; 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 the Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9K, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 30, 2002, and Effective, September 16, 2002, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

* * * * *

AWP CA E5 Susanville, CA [New]

Susanville Municipal Airport, CA
(Lat. 40°22'33" N, long. 120°34'21" W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 6.5-mile radius of Susanville Municipal Airport and within 2 miles each side of the 134° bearing from the Susanville Municipal Airport extending from the 6.5-mile radius to 10.3 miles southeast of the Susanville Municipal Airport and within 2 miles each side of the 339° bearing from the Susanville Municipal Airport extending from the 6.5-mile radius to 10 miles northwest of the Susanville Municipal Airport.

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Issued in Los Angeles, California, on April 29, 2003.

John Clancy,

Manager, Air Traffic Division, Western-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 03–14427 Filed 6–6–03; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 220

RIN 3220–AB50

Determining Disability

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Board proposes to amend its regulations to index the amount of earnings used to determine if an individual is engaged in substantial gainful activity (SGA) to any increase in the Social Security national average wage index and to increase from \$200 to \$530 the minimum amount of monthly earnings to count during a trial work period and then index that amount

to the Social Security national average wage index.

DATES: In order for us to consider your comments on these specific proposals, the Board must receive them by August 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in writing to the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611–2092.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marguerite P. Dadabo, Assistant General Counsel, (312) 751–4945, TDD (312) 751–4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Railroad Retirement Act provides for disability annuities for employees, widow(er)s, and children of deceased railroad employees who are unable to engage in any regular employment because of a physical or mental impairment. Regular employment is defined by reference to the definition of substantial gainful activity under the Social Security Act. Sections 220.141 and 220.142 of the Board's regulations reflect this definition and define "substantial gainful activity" (SGA) as work activity that involves doing significant physical or mental activities for pay or profit. Work activity is gainful if it is the kind of work usually done for pay or profit, whether or not profit is realized. Section 220.143 sets forth earnings levels at which the Board considers a person to be engaged in SGA regardless of the severity of his or her impairment. The amount of average monthly earnings that ordinarily demonstrates SGA was increased effective July 1, 1999, when the Board raised from \$500 to \$700 the average monthly earnings guidelines used to determine whether work done by a person is substantial gainful activity.

The Board proposes to issue regulations that would increase certain thresholds for disabled workers. Under the proposal, the average monthly earnings guideline, which is used to determine whether work done by disabled workers (other than those who are blind) is substantial gainful activity, would be increased to \$740.00 for calendar year 2001 and would thereafter be automatically adjusted each year based on increases in the Social Security national average wage index. See 42 U.S.C. 409(k)(1). The amount that is used to determine if a disabled individual has performed "services" during a trial work period also would be subject to an automatic annual adjustment. These changes would conform to changes in the regulations of the Social Security Administration that

became final effective January 29, 2001 (65 FR 82905, December 29, 2000).

In order to be eligible for disability benefits, an applicant must not be performing substantial gainful activity. A beneficiary's ongoing eligibility for disability benefits is also subject to this rule. Therefore, the Board has established both upper and lower thresholds as guidelines for determining, respectively, what is prima facie evidence of engaging in SGA and what is prima facie evidence of not engaging in SGA. Except for those who work in sheltered workshops, disabled workers with earnings between the two thresholds are subject to further examination. Currently, the upper and lower thresholds are \$700 and \$300, respectively. For those working in sheltered workshops, earnings below the upper threshold are prima facie evidence that the worker is not performing SGA.

Under the Board's proposal, beginning January 1, 2002, the upper threshold would be adjusted annually, based on the Social Security national average wage index, to conform to the SGA level determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and published in the **Federal Register** each October as part of SSA's notice that includes new adjustments. Under this proposal, the SGA amount would never be lower than the previous year's amount. However, there may be years in which there is no increase.

As part of this proposal, the Board also plans to eliminate the lower SGA threshold so that earnings below the upper threshold would be prima facie evidence that a disabled worker is not engaging in SGA, regardless of whether the worker is working in competitive employment or in a sheltered workshop.

The Board also proposes to increase the monthly amount that a disabled worker may earn within a trial work period without jeopardizing the amount of time remaining in the trial work period. Currently, a disabled worker may test his or her ability to work and still be considered disabled by working during a trial work period. A disabled beneficiary will continue to be considered disabled until the beneficiary performs "service" in at least nine months within a rolling 60-month period. Since 1990, the Board has considered any month in which at least more than \$200 is earned to be a month of service.

Under the proposed rule, the threshold amount would be increased to \$530 for 2001, and then would be adjusted annually thereafter based on the Social Security national average wage index to conform to the amount