

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA)/3406 (CGD 97-027), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, or deliver them to room 3406 at the same address between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-267-1477. The application may be reviewed at the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council's Offices, at 750 W. 2nd Ave., Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501 or 154 Fairbanks Dr., P.O. Box 3089, Valdez, Alaska, 99686, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (907) 277-7222 in Anchorage, AK, and (907) 835-5957 in Valdez, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information regarding the PWSRCAC contact Mr. Mark Meza, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate, Office of Response, (G-MOR-1), (202) 267-0421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to submit written data, views, or arguments. It solicits comments from interested groups including oil terminal facility owners and operators, owners and operators of crude oil tankers calling at the terminal facilities, and fishing, aquacultural, recreational and environmental citizens groups, concerning the recertification application of PWSRCAC. If you submit a comment, please include your name and address, identify this docket (CGD 97-025) and specify the section of the application to which your comment applies. Please submit two copies of all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you want confirmation that the Coast Guard has received your comments you should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period.

Background

The Coast Guard published guidelines on December 31, 1992, to assist groups seeking recertification under the Act. The Coast Guard issued a policy statement on July 7, 1993 (58 FR 36505), to clarify the factors that the Coast Guard would be considering in making its determination as to whether advisory groups should be certified in accordance with the Act; and the procedures which

the Coast Guard would follow in meeting its certification responsibilities under the Act.

The Coast Guard has received an application for recertification of PWSRCAC, the currently certified advisory group for the Cook Inlet region. In accordance with the review and certification process contained in the policy statement, the Coast Guard announces the availability of that application. At the conclusion of the comment period, the Coast Guard will review all application materials and comments received and will take one of the following actions:

(a) Recertify the advisory group under 33 U.S.C. 2732(o).

(b) Issue a conditional recertification for a period of 90 days, with a statement of any discrepancies which must be corrected to qualify for recertification for the remainder of the year.

(c) Deny recertification of the advisory group if the Coast Guard finds that the group is not broadly representative of the interests and communities in the area or is not adequately fostering the goals and purposes of the Act.

The Coast Guard will notify PWSRCAC by letter of the action taken on its application. A notice will be published in the **Federal Register** to advise the public of the Coast Guard's determination.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

R. C. North,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Marine, Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 97-13513 Filed 5-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Air Tour Routes for the Grand Canyon National Park

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of commercial air tour routes for the Grand Canyon National Park and disposition of comments; correction.

SUMMARY: This action corrects the notice of availability of commercial air tour routes for the Grand Canyon National Park and disposition of comments document published in the **Federal Register** on May 15, 1997. The closing date for comments is corrected to read "June 16, 1997." This correction of the closing date for comments is made to conform to the closing date for comments given in a companion

document, Establishment of Corridors in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area, also published in the **Federal Register** on May 15, 1997.

Background

On May 15, 1997, the FAA published a Notice of availability of commercial air tour routes for the Grand Canyon National Park and disposition of comments [62 FR 26909]. That document incorrectly indicated that the comment period would close on May 27, 1997. Concurrently with that notice, the FAA published an NPRM, Establishment of Corridors in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area, with a close of comment date of June 16, 1997 [62 FR 26902].

Correction

In the **Federal Register** issue of May 15, 1997, in FR Doc. 97-12746, in the first column, on page 26909, correct the **DATES** caption to read:

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 16, 1997.

Patricia Lane,

Manager, Air Space and Air Traffic Law Branch.

[FR Doc. 97-13522 Filed 5-19-97; 4:27 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Establishment of a Joint National Parks Overflights Working Group; National Park Service and Federal Aviation Administration

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announce the establishment of the National Parks Overflights Working Group (NPOWG). The NPOWG is formed to recommend a proposed regulation which would define the process for reducing or preventing the adverse effects of commercial sightseeing flights over units of the National Park System. The NPS and FAA believe that the working group will provide the best forum for obtaining input to rulemaking on the issue of overflights of the national park units. This notice serves to inform the public of the formation of the working group.

DATES: The National Parks Overflights Working Group is established on May 19, 1997, and will terminate on September 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carla Mattix, Officer of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C

St., NW, Washington, DC 20240, telephone: (202) 208-7957, or Linda Williams, Office of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., Washington, DC 20591, telephone: (202) 267-9685.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 1987, Congress enacted Public Law 100-91, commonly known as the National Parks Overflights Act. The Act mandated a number of studies related to the effects of overflights on parks and directed the National Park Service to report to Congress its results. In March 1994, the FAA and NPS issued an advanced notice of rulemaking. Approximately 2,000 substantive comments were received; many thousands of additional comments were received as form letters.

In September 1994, the NPS issued their report to Congress. Recommendation No. 5 recommended that "FAA develop an operational rule to regulate air tour operations where they have or may have adverse effects on national parks." NPS also identified a list of parks where it found that maintaining or restoring the natural quiet is an immediate priority.

By memorandum of April 22, 1996, President Clinton directed the Secretary of Transportation in consultation with relevant departments and agencies to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking for "the management of sightseeing aircraft in those National Parks where it is deemed necessary to reduce or prevent the adverse effects of such aircraft." The regulation should, at a minimum, establish a framework for managing air traffic over those park units identified in the 1994 NPS study, as priorities for (1) Resolution of airspace issues and (2) maintaining or restoring natural quiet."

Formation of the Working Group

The FAA has established an Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) [56 FR 2190, January 20, 1991; and 58 FR 9230, February 19, 1993] and the NPS has established the NPS Advisory Board under 49 Stat. 667; 16 U.S.C. 463, section 3 of the Act of August 21, 1935, as amended. The working group is established to recommend a notice of proposed rulemaking which would define the process to reduce or prevent the adverse effects of low-level commercial sightseeing flights over the National Parks where deemed necessary. The recommended proposed regulation should be limited to address the effects

if commercial sightseeing flights over the units of the National Park System.

Specifically, the working group is tasked to:

Define the process to reduce or prevent the adverse effects of commercial sightseeing flights over units of the national park system. Factors for consideration in the process may include voluntary, negotiated solutions and an appeal process.

The overflights working group is composed of nine members representing a balance of air tour operators, both fixed and rotary wing; general aviation users; other commercial aviation interests; national tour associations; environmental groups; and Native Americans. Co-chairs for the working group will be selected by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Interior (DOI). DOT and DOI representatives will act as advisors to the membership, but will not be active members of the working group. A facilitator will provide focus for the group.

The working group will terminate 100 days from the date of its initial meeting. The group will make its final recommendations to the ARAC and NPS Advisory Board at the end of that 100 days. The ARAC and NPS Advisory Board will review the recommendations of the working group and report to the NPS and FAA. Progress or status reports from the working group are expected every 21 days. NPS and FAA anticipate that the final product of the NPOWG will be a recommended notice of proposed rulemaking.

The final report of the NPOWG will be made available to the public when it is reported to the Advisory Board and ARAC. In addition, both agencies envision that public meetings will be held following the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking on the issues regarding overflights of the national parks.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Transportation have determined that this working group is in the public interest because it presents an opportunity for interested groups to present their varied perspectives on the rulemaking.

Related Rulemaking

On January 3, 1997, the FAA issued a final rule temporarily banning commercial air tour overflights of the Rocky Mountain National Park [62 FR 1192; January 8, 1997]. In that final rule the FAA stated that this temporary Special Federal Aviation Regulation would expire as soon as a general rule on overflights of the national parks is adopted.

In addition, the FAA has underway a rulemaking effort to establish safety standards for all air tour operations.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 19, 1997.

Joseph A. Hawkins,

Director of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-13521 Filed 5-19-97; 4:27 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Programmatic EO 11990 Wetland Finding: New York State

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, New York Division Office (NYDO), DOT.

ACTION: Public notice of programmatic EO 11990 wetland finding.

SUMMARY: The NYDO is issuing this notice to advise the public that it has made a programmatic EO 11990 Wetland Finding for Federally Aided Highway Projects Classified as a Categorical Exclusion under 23 CFR 771.117 which involve only the use of U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE) Section 404 Nationwide Permits. The Finding was circulated to Federal and State regulatory and resource agencies as well as all of the New York Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Statewide clearinghouse for their input prior to finalization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William A. Gates, Environmental Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division Office, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 9th Floor, Albany, NY 12207, Telephone: 518-431-4125.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This programmatic Executive Order 11990 (EO 11990) evaluation and wetland finding has been prepared for transportation improvement projects which require only a Corps of Engineers (COE) Section 404 Nationwide Permit for work which will affect waters of the United States. It satisfies the requirements of EO 11990 and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Order 5660.1A for all projects that meet the applicability criteria listed below. No individual wetland finding need be prepared for such projects.

Background

EO 11990, issued on May 24, 1977, requires each agency to develop procedures for Federal actions whose impact is not significant enough to require the preparation of an