

APPENDIX 3. AIR TRAFFIC1. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Regional Offices. Responsibility for environmental assessment and preparation of EIS's and FONSI's may be delegated to field facilities or retained within the regional office, with assistance from the field facilities. Regional offices and field facilities shall provide input to an environmental assessment when requested by Air Traffic (AAT), Air Traffic Operations Service (ATO), Air Traffic Plans and Requirements Service (ATR) or other services.

b. Headquarters. The office originating the proposed systemwide action is responsible for making environmental assessments and preparing the FONSI's and EIS's. Input may be requested from regional offices and field facilities for an action originating within headquarters.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OR FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. After completion of the environmental assessment (including noise analyses), the responsible official will determine whether the proposed procedure will require an EIS or FONSI or is categorically excluded.

3. ACTIONS SUBJECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND PROCEDURES. The following actions are subject to environmental assessment and preparation of an EIS or FONSI.

a. New or revised air traffic control procedures which routinely route air traffic over noise sensitive areas at less than 3,000 feet ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

b. Special use airspace if the floor of the proposed area is below 3,000 feet ABOVE GROUND LEVEL or if supersonic flight is anticipated at any altitude. This airspace shall not be designated, established, or modified until:

(1) The notice (NPRM or non-rule circular) contains a statement supplied by the requesting or using agency that they will serve as lead agency for purposes of compliance with NEPA; (e.g., restricted airspace for military use);

(2) The notice contains the name and address, supplied by the requesting or using agency, of the office representing the agency to which comments on the environmental aspects can be addressed (applicable only if an EIS is to be filed by the requesting agency);

(3) The notice contains the name and address, supplied by the requesting or using agency, of the office representing the agency to which comments on any land use problems can be addressed (applicable only if special use airspace extends to the surface); and

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(4) The rule, determination, or other publication of the airspace action contains a statement, supplied by the requesting agency, that the requirements of NEPA have been met.

c. The provisions of paragraph b. (1) through (4) are not applicable to special use airspace actions if minor adjustments are made such as raising the altitudes or if a change is made in the designation of the controlling or using agency.

4. CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED ACTIONS.

* a. Determination under FAR Part 77, "Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace" and determinations under FAR Part 157, "Notice of Construction, Alteration, Activation and Deactivation of Airports." Determinations under Part 157 include helipads and heliports. *

b. Procedural actions to the extent covered by a previously filed EIS or FONSI, when environmental circumstances have not changed.

c. Actions taken under FAR Part 71, "Designation of Federal Airways, Area Low Routes, Controlled Airspace and Reporting Points."

d. Actions taken under FAR Part 75, "Establishment of Jet Routes and Area High Routes"; FAR Part 99, "Security Control of Air Traffic"; FAR Part 101, "Moored Balloons, Kites, Unmanned Rockets and Unmanned Free Balloons"; and FAR Part 105, "Parachute Jumping."

* e. Establishment or modification of Terminal Control Areas (TCA), Terminal Radar Service Areas (TRSA), or Airport Radar Service Areas (ARSA). *

f. Procedural actions dictated by emergency determinations.

g. Procedural actions requested by users on a test basis to determine the effectiveness of new technology and measurement of possible impacts on the environment.

h. New procedures that routinely route aircraft over non-noise sensitive areas.

i. Establishment of helicopter tracks that channel helicopter activity over major thoroughfares.