



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Alaskan Region

222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue #14  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7587

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
**Aeronautical Study 08-AAL-06NR**  
Request for Public Input

**Proposal to Decommission  
all Very High Frequency  
Direction Finders (VHF DF)  
In Alaska**

1. **Proposed Change.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is seeking input from interested parties regarding a proposal to shut down and decommission all VHF DF equipment in Alaska. This action would result in the cancellation of DF Instrument Approach procedures and eliminate equipment currently available to Flight Service and Automated Flight Service personnel to locate lost aircraft. Alaska operates the only FAA DF sites in the United States. Remaining DF sites in all states but Alaska were decommissioned in 2007.

As the result of a study completed by the FAA in 1998, the FAA committed to maintain the Alaska DF system until 2008, at which time a new study would be accomplished to determine the future of DFs. This solicitation is part of the new study and will be used to help determine the value placed on the DF system by persons or entities with aeronautical concerns.

If this proposal were adopted, the following sites would lose DF capability:

Ambler	Bettles	Dillingham	King Salmon	Sand Point
Aniak	Biorka Island	Ft. Yukon	McGrath	Yakutat
Annette	Cold Bay	Gulkana	Mekoryuk	
Barrow	Cordova	Homer	Nome	
Bethel	Deadhorse	Iliamna	Northway	

There are several reasons for the proposal. DFs have been used only twice in the last 3 years for flight assists (lost aircraft orientation or accident location), increasing reliance on Global Positioning System technology along with other advanced aircraft avionics (automatic dependent surveillance, i.e. ADS-B, and Capstone avionics) have decreased the potential for pilots to become lost, increased radar coverage is providing an alternative for air traffic control to locate lost aircraft, and DF equipment is beyond its useful lifecycle and will be very expensive to restore and upgrade.

2. **Public Input:** The public is invited to submit, in writing, comments regarding the overall aeronautical aspects of the proposed decommissioning of DFs and cancellation of DF Approaches.

This proposal is subject to change after review of public comments.

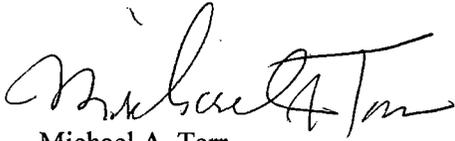
Comments in writing concurring with or objecting to the proposed change may be indicated by use of the attached endorsement form, or may be mailed separately, or may be emailed (see link below).

3. **Comment Information:** Comments must be received by close of business, Monday, March 31, 2008 to be considered. You may E-Mail comments to [9-AAL-530-Comments@faa.gov](mailto:9-AAL-530-Comments@faa.gov) or address your reply to the Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska Flight Service Information Area Group, 222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #14, Anchorage, AK 99513-7587.

This proposal can also be reviewed via internet on our web page.

<http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at/notices/Alaska-DF-decommission.pdf>

5. **Proponent Information:** If you have questions regarding this change, please contact Derril Bergt, Alaska Flight Service Information Area Group, at (907) 271-2796.



Michael A. Tarr  
Manager, Operations  
Alaska Flight Service Information Area Group

Issued in Anchorage, Alaska, on February 8, 2008.

**COMMENT:** Aeronautical Study 08-AAL-06NR; Proposed Decommissioning of DFs in Alaska.

I have reviewed the proposal identified above and I have no objections.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Representing:** \_\_\_\_\_

or

I have reviewed the proposal identified above and I have comments (see below, or attached).

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Comments to: Federal Aviation Administration  
Alaska Flight Service Information Area Group  
Aeronautical Study 08-AAL-06NR  
222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #14  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587