**10-081 (June 29, 2010) Compliance With Specified Procedure Submission Cutoff Dates.**

ISSUE: The National Flight Data Center (NFDC) has submitted this agenda item over their concern that AeroNav Services is increasingly requesting to submit procedures for publication in both the Transmittal Letter (TL) and National Flight Data Digest (NFDD) after the specified cutoff dates ( in some cases, as much as 2-weeks late). The submission schedule in FAA Order 8260.26 has been superseded by a prototype AVN-NFDC developed and agreed upon schedule that has been in use for several years. This revised schedule has been verbally approved for testing by AFS-420 and will be included in Order 8260.26E, which is currently under revision. Failure to meet the required cutoff dates shortens the time NFDC has for procedure review, validation against NASR, and ensuring publication in the appropriate NFDD or TL to meet the required AIRAC charting date. Although procedure development and US government charting are under the purview of AeroNav Services, it must be noted that the TL and NFDD are promulgated to other charting agents worldwide. Deviations to accommodate late submissions by AeroNav Services impact on NFDC's responsibility to ensure timely validation and dissemination to other charting agents.

Status: 06-29-10: Steve Brisbon introduced this new issue by stating that procedure production has steadily increased over the years; however, NFDC staffing has remained constant. NFDC cannot continue to support late submissions. Rick Mayhew added that cutoff dates have been in place for many years to support procedure publication. Bill Hammett stated that the current cutoff suspense dates were developed mutually between AeroNav services and NFDC and will be included in Order 8260.26, which is currently under revision. The cutoff dates support procedure publication in the Transmittal Letter (TL) and NFDD and are not specified just to accommodate FAA procedure development and charting. The TL and NFDD are used to promulgate IFPs to worldwide charting agents. Brad Rush made comments regarding increased NFDC staffing, revising submission cutoff dates, and then closed with a statement that AeroNav Services has yet to fail to get a procedure published, even when submitted late. Scott Jerdan stated that the problem originates with the DACS production. If the DACS were eliminated, then perhaps the schedule could be compressed somewhat. Bill responded that Jim Seabright conducted a study on the need for the DACS several years ago (AISWG issue 06-047) and could probably provide information. Brad added that part of the problem lies in the ATO Service Areas, primarily with late requests for SID and STAR publication. He offered details for several chart cycles. Bill responded that it was "déjà vu all over again". NFDC had a severe problem with late procedure submission back in the mid 90s. The solution then was to advise all the Regional Offices (now Service Areas) that the submission dates in Order 8260.26 would be strictly adhered to. Once notification and enforcement were accomplished, the problem abated. Perhaps it is time for the System Operations Service Unit to re-enforce that position. Ray Nussear agreed that the users need to be cognizant of the issues and supports a memo to the Service Areas. In summation, all agreed that it was good to discuss this issue and air it out, All agreed to better attempt to meet scheduled submission cutoff dates. It is up to NFDC to work with System Operations upper management to decide whether to send a memo to the Service Areas and other procedure developers. **CLOSED**.