

AERONAUTICAL CHARTING MEETING
Charting Group

BRIEFING ITEM

Subject: 56-Day Visual Charts

Background/Discussion: The lifecycles of FAA-produced Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Charts vary from 168 days to two years and at one time various charts did not update for years longer (Helicopter and Grand Canyon for example).

Extended and unsynchronized lifecycles create an undue burden on the NAS and on chart users. The NOTAM System must carry many facility NOTAMs until consistently charted. As a result, chart users are burdened with numerous NOTAMS and difficulty arises in identifying pertinent NOTAMs and correctly applying them. Numerous changes are alerted in Chart Supplement Chart Bulletins that many users either do not know exist and/or do not find readily accessible. Unsynchronized chart dates lead to inconsistent data capture on overlapping areas, adjacent charts and other chart products.

Producing 56-day VFR Charts will provide significant relief to a number of these issues. The NAS picture will be consistent with that reflected on Enroute, Terminal and Supplemental products. NOTAMs will be significantly reduced as charts will capture changes with every 56-day AIRAC cycle. Chart Supplement Chart Bulletins will no longer be necessary.

Planned Actions: Update the VFR Sectional, Terminal Area, Flyway Planning and Helicopter Route Chart series on the 56-day AIRAC cycle.

Implement this effort across a series of milestones:

Milestone #1 will synchronize the cutoff for VFR Charts with other aeronautical products. (June 18, 2020)

Milestone #2 will eliminate 28-Day AIRAC date VFR Charts to align with airspace amendments and will stage charts for 56-day AIRAC date production. (September 10, 2020)

Milestone #3 will realize full implementation of the 56-day update of VFR Charts and elimination of supporting Chart Supplement Chart Bulletins. (February 25, 2021)

Comments: A future Charting Notice will advise of these changes. Additionally, contributing and related planned actions are anticipated to be implemented concurrently: Foreign Area Data Projections on Enroute and Visual Charts and the Whitehorse Sectional recommendation will facilitate this effort.

Submitted by: Guy Copeland, FAA/AJV-A210, 15 April 2020