



[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Membership in the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group Aviation Rulemaking Committee

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: By Federal Register notice (See 80 FR 21294, April 17, 2015) the National Park Service (NPS) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) invited interested persons to apply to fill three upcoming openings on the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group (NPOAG) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC). The notice invited interested persons to apply to fill future openings to represent general aviation concerns, air tour operator concerns, and Native American interests. This notice informs the public of the persons selected to fill two of the general aviation and air tour operator future vacancies. No selection has been made for the vacancy representing Native American interests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Lusk, Special Programs Staff, Federal Aviation Administration, Western-Pacific Region Headquarters, P.O. Box 92007, Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007, telephone: (310) 725-3808, e-mail: Keith.Lusk@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000 (the Act) was enacted on April 5, 2000, as Public Law 106-181, and subsequently amended in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. The Act required the establishment of the advisory group within 1 year after its enactment. The NPOAG was established in March 2001. The advisory group is comprised of a balanced group of representatives of general aviation, commercial air tour operations, environmental concerns, and Native American tribes. The Administrator of the FAA and the Director of NPS (or their designees) serve as ex officio members of the group. Representatives of the Administrator and Director serve alternating 1-year terms as chairman of the advisory group.

In accordance with the Act, the advisory group provides “advice, information, and recommendations to the Administrator and the Director-

- (1) On the implementation of this title [the Act] and the amendments made by this title;
- (2) On commonly accepted quiet aircraft technology for use in commercial air tour operations over a national park or tribal lands, which will receive preferential treatment in a given air tour management plan;
- (3) On other measures that might be taken to accommodate the interests of visitors to national parks; and
- (4) At the request of the Administrator and the Director, safety, environmental, and other issues related to commercial air tour operations over a national park or tribal lands.”

Membership

The current NPOAG ARC is made up of one member representing general aviation, three members representing the commercial air tour industry, four members representing

environmental concerns, and two members representing Native American interests. Current members of the NPOAG ARC are as follows:

Heidi Williams representing general aviation; Alan Stephen, Matt Zuccaro, and Mark Francis representing commercial air tour operators; Mark Belles, Nicholas Miller, Michael Sutton, and Dick Hingson representing environmental interests; and Leigh Kuwanwisiwma and Martin Begaye representing Native American tribes. The 3-year membership terms of Ms. Williams, Mr. Stephen, and Mr. Begaye expire on October 9, 2015.

Selection

The person selected to fill the upcoming open seat representing general aviation concerns is Melissa Rudinger and the person selected to fill the upcoming open seat representing air tour operator concerns is Alan Stephen. Mr. Stephen is a current member and will serve another term. Their 3-year terms will begin on October 10, 2015. No persons expressed interest in filling the upcoming opening to represent Native American interests. The FAA and NPS will solicit interest for this opening in another Federal Register notice in the near future.

Issued in Hawthorne, CA on July 9, 2015.

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Program Manager, Special Programs Staff, Western-Pacific Region.

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