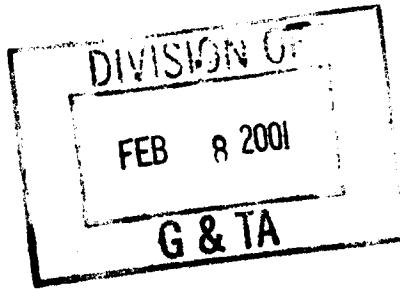




U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**



800 Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20591

FEB 5 2001

Mr. Randy Kenagy  
Advanced Technology  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
421 Aviation Way  
Frederick MD 21701-4798

Dear Mr. Kenagy:

Thank you for your letter dated December 4, 2000.

The evolution of our existing airway structure is currently tied to the use of Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range (VORs). An on-going rulemaking effort has addressed the need to move toward Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes as defined by International Civil Aviation Organization in Annex 11. Other Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) orders, including Flight Standards and Air Traffic Orders, are under revision to provide ATS routes. The definition of ATS routes includes airways and these are not restricted to source referenced navigational aids, e.g., VOR.

This rulemaking action is a coordinated effort between air traffic (ATP-104) and flight standards (AFS-410). More direct routes will be published initially in the Airport Facilities Directory (AFD) and generated through the NAS host computer. Routes published in the AFD will eventually be charted when rulemaking action for ATS routes is finalized.

We agree that high level emphasis should be directed to address the need, both government and industry, for this rulemaking action. The Satellite Operational Implementation Team's (SOIT) Executive Committee has expressed this need to senior FAA managers. Funding was received for a first draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. It was completed on December 15, 2000.

The FAA is committed to working across lines of business with the goal of transitioning to and implementing an Area Navigation (RNAV) based national airspace system.

Should you desire to discuss some of the on-going FAA RNAV efforts, please feel free to contact Mr. Peter Dula, AFS-401 at 202-267-8452.

Sincerely,

L. Nicholas Lacey  
Director, Flight Standards Service