



March 17, 2006

Dear Oilpatch Customer:

SUBJECT: EDMONTON/FT. McMURRAY ALTITUDE CORRIDOR

As part of our Oilpatch Development Plan, Edmonton ACC has been examining ways to mitigate traffic congestion issues in the corridor between Ft. McMurray and Edmonton.

One problem we've identified is that a number of commonly used tracks in the corridor are very close to the 360/180 eastbound /westbound division specified for "direction of flight" under CARs 602.34, Cruising Altitudes & Flight Levels. This situation creates a high incidence of opposite direction, same altitude, conflicts that may have an impact on safety and efficiency of operations.

Given the predominantly north/south flow within this area, Edmonton ACC has developed the following solution to the problem. A "MM-EG Altitude Corridor" has been defined (exclusive of Cold Lake MTCU and active Class F airspace), within which a tailored "***direction of flight***" concept will be applied by Edmonton ACC controllers. Please refer to the attached diagram.

Effective 1300z, March 20, 2006, pilots operating within this corridor can expect altitude assignments based on the following guidelines:

1. IFR/CVFR aircraft transiting the MM-EG Corridor on a southerly heading will be assigned even cruising altitudes or flight levels.
2. IFR/CVFR aircraft transiting the MM-EG Corridor on a northerly heading will be assigned odd cruising altitudes or flight levels.

These procedures are valid under CARs 602.34 (2) and are intended as a near term option for addressing issues in the corridor. Because these practices will be a controller application, **current pilot flight planning procedures should continue unchanged.** While we are confident that this initiative will enhance overall operational safety and efficiency for our customers, we will continue to evaluate this procedure and other methods for improving service in the area.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these procedures, please contact Ken Soady, Manager ACC Operations at (780) 890-8323.

Sincerely,

Rudy Kellar
General Manager
IFR Operations Edmonton

Attachment

