

11/5/2025

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2025-274/6-31

To: FAA (ATM PCT TRACON)

2288383

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AEA-600, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA North), A4A, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, CAPA, ATSAP, ATSG, IATA, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: PCT TRACON ATC Radio Issues

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.



Aviation Safety Reporting System
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



ACN 2288383**DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence 202509
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale JYO.Airport
State VA
Altitude - MSL 1400

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions VMC

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower JYO
ATC / Advisory - TRACON PCT
Make Model Name Small Aircraft, Low Wing, 1 Eng, Retractable Gear
Operating Under FAR Part 91

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Single Pilot
ASRS Report Number 2288383

EVENTS

Anomaly Airspace Violation - All Types
Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published
Material / Policy
Detector - Person Flight Crew
Result - Flight Crew Overcame Equipment Problem
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued New Clearance

NARRATIVE 1

I operated a personal flight from ZZZ to JYO under a SFRA flight plan from XA:06 to XA:19. After establishing contact with Potomac TRACON I proceeded direct to JYO at 1,400 so as to remain out of the Class B airspace, as instructed and in compliance with the SFRA flight rules for this area. As I approached JYO, I tried four (4) times to contact Potomac for a handoff to the JYO Tower. No response from Potomac. Realizing I was about to penetrate the controlled airspace at JYO, I changed frequencies and contacted the JYO Tower and was cleared to land.

At issue here is the communications failure with Potomac TRACON when filing and flying under an SFRA flight plan in the Northern Virginia, Washington DC area. There seems to be a problem with several of the TRACON frequencies at low altitudes north of Dulles Airport (IAD).

I did all I could do to request a frequency change from Potomac TRACON, but ultimately exercised pilot-in-command authority to safely end the flight at JYO by obtaining clearance to land from the JYO Tower.

SYNOPSIS

General aviation pilot reported there was no response from PCT TRACON and changed frequencies to JYO Tower to avoid penetration into controlled airspace. The reporter stated there is a problem at low altitudes with several of the TRACON frequencies in the vicinity.