

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET SECTION
98 SEP 24 PM 3: 05

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September 14, 1998

U.S. Dept. of Transportation Dockets, Docket No. FAA-98-4390 -10
400 Seventh ST., S.W. Room Plaza 401
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: FAA NPRM 63 Fed Reg. 46834; Flight Plan Requirements for Helicopter Operations under Instrument Flight Rules.

To the FAA Administrator:

I have been a professional helicopter pilot for more than twenty years. This NPRM recognizes the unique capabilities of the helicopter in addition to the enhanced safety of flying IFR. Accident statistics have shown that flying IFR has many safety advantages over flying marginal VFR. This rule would allow helicopters which previously would have been forced to fly in marginal VFR conditions to operate under the enhanced safety of Instrument Flight Rules.

I applaud the FAA for recognizing that encouraging pilots to file IFR flight plans, and work within Instrument Flight Regulations will be a great step forward in enhancing safety of flight.

Very truly yours,

Michael C. Powers
Certificate # 48466582

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