



AIRPORT NEWS

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Caldwell Industrial Airport

Hubler Terminal

4814 E. Linden Street

Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Airport Manager Rob Oates

(208) 459-9779

Fax: (208) 453-1370

www.caldwellairport.com

MERIDIAN NDB

BACKGROUND: Step by step the FAA is moving forward with plans announced in 2003 to transition to NextGEN, a “next generation” air navigation system based on use of the GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) constellation of satellites operated by the U.S. Air Force. Among other things, NextGEN is supposed to offer: commercial air travelers more certainty in departure and arrival times; airlines more efficient and potentially higher density flight paths; all operators an overall modernization in air navigation; and enhancements to both air and ground safety for everyone involved.

CHANGES: One way that these changes are becoming visible to pilots at Caldwell will be the de-commissioning of the Meridian NDB (Non-Directional Beacon) as of a proposed publication date of October 12, 2017. Nationwide almost all of the existing NDB’s will eventually be turned off as a part of this effort – as will a long list of VOR (VHF Omnidirectional Range) stations. Some VOR sites also offer access to DME (Distance Measuring Equipment) from co-located military TACAN (tactical air navigation) facilities. At most VORTAC sites the DME services will be eliminated. The published plan retains a minimal VOR system in operation as a ground-based back-up to the primary GPS navigation system.

LOCAL PILOT IMPACT: At KEUL the NDB RWY 30 approach will be cancelled. At KMAN, NDB-A will be cancelled and some obstacle procedures will be amended at both Nampa and Boise. Naturally, this applies mostly to pilots operating under Instrument Flight Rules.

SMEED PARKWAY REALIGNMENT

The irrigation canal near the Hubler Terminal is called the 500 lateral or the Canyon Hill Lateral, depending on to whom you're talking. The new pipe that is now underground goes from near the terminal to a point across Smeed Parkway. Last issue we reported that the new road along the "hypotenuse" of the triangle formed by Linden and Smeed (starting across Linden from the Hubler Terminal) would be completed in the coming weeks. That's still mostly the plan, though actual completion may not occur till closer to the end of the summer construction season. The new road will be a part of Smeed Parkway replacing the section closed due to the pipe crossing.



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Hubler Terminal
4814 E. Linden Street
Caldwell, ID 83605