Drone pilots, both hobbyists and commercial operators, must comply with all FAA guidance and regulations for UAS flight.

Current FAA guidance may be found at https://www.faa.gov/uas/

Flight within five nautical miles of McGhee Tyson Airport or Knoxville Downtown Island Airport falls within controlled airspace and requires FAA approval. This applies to ALL UAS OPERATIONS, hobbyist or commercial.

Approval may only be gained through the FAA, and the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority is not a party to this process.

According to the FAA, “Flyers should know that if they intentionally violate any of these safety requirements, and/or operate in a careless and reckless manner, they could be liable for criminal and/or civil penalties.”