



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 10th day of June, 1996

Served: June 14, 1996

Ninety-day Notice of

SIMMONS AIRLINES, INC.
d/b/a AMERICAN EAGLE

under 49 U.S.C. 41734 and 14 CFR Part 323 of intent to
terminate service at Marquette, Michigan

Docket OST-96-1342

ORDER ALLOWING TERMINATION OF SERVICE

On May 3, 1996, Simmons Airlines, Inc. d/b/a American Eagle filed a 90-day notice of its intention to suspend its subsidy-free service at Marquette, Michigan, effective August 1, 1996.

Marquette's current essential air service definition, as set forth in Order 84-11-17, dated November 15, 1984, requires two daily nonstop or one-stop round trips to either Chicago, Milwaukee or Green Bay providing 62 seats in each direction.

Flights meeting our essential air service guidelines must be operated with two pilots and with aircraft having at least two engines, conventional cabin access through an airstair door or similar type of access, and a least 15 passenger seats. Flights must also be operated at reasonable times taking into account the needs of passengers with connecting flights at such airports and at rates, fares and charges which are not excessive when compared to the generally prevailing fares of other air carriers for like service between similar pairs of points.

Simmons Airlines is providing two daily one-stop round trips between Marquette and Chicago O'Hare with 46-seat ATR aircraft. In addition to Simmons Airlines' Chicago service, Great Lakes d/b/a United Express operates three daily one-stop round trips between Marquette and Chicago O'Hare, two flights with 30-seat Brasilia and one with 19-seat Beechcraft aircraft. In addition, Mesaba Aviation d/b/a Northwest Airlink operates three daily nonstop round trips in the Detroit market using 36-seat DH8 aircraft. Mesaba Aviation also operates three round trips a day in the Marquette-Minneapolis market with 19-seat Metroliner aircraft.

After careful consideration of this matter, we have decided to take no action to prohibit Simmons Airlines from terminating its Marquette service on August 1, as contemplated in its notice. Marquette will retain scheduled service from Great Lakes in the O'Hare market. At

the same time the community will retain round trip service in the Detroit and Minneapolis markets from Mesaba. These levels are far above the maximum service levels the Department can guarantee under the essential air service program.

As a final matter, before Simmons Airlines suspends service, we expect it to contact all passengers that hold reservations for flights that will be suspended, to inform them of the suspension and the availability of alternative service by Great Lakes in the Chicago market and and by Mesaba Aviation in the Detroit and Minneapolis markets, and to assist them in arranging alternative transportation.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56(i).

ACCORDINGLY;

1. The Department will take no action to prohibit Simmons Airlines, Inc. from terminating its scheduled service at Marquette, Michigan, effective August 1, 1996; and
2. The Department will serve a copy of this order on the City of Marquette, the Marquette Marquette County Airport, the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics and Simmons Airlines, Inc.

By:

CHARLES A. HUNNICUTT
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

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