

NEW



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN

December 4, 1997

This serves as interim notice to the public of the action described below, taken orally by the Department official indicated; the confirming order or other decision document will be issued as soon as possible.

Application of Northwest Airlines, Inc. filed 11/25/97 in Docket OST-97-2209 for:

XX *Exemption from Order 96-9-16; startup deadline:*

By Order 96-9-16 the Department issued Northwest Airlines three weekly frequencies to expand its U.S.-Thailand all-cargo operations, and confirmed the allocation of two previously awarded frequencies. That award was subject to the condition that it will expire automatically and the frequencies will revert back to the Department for reallocation if they are not used for a period of 90 days. Under the terms of the order, Northwest's frequency allocation would expire on April 1, 1997, if Northwest did not begin service by that date. On March 12, 1997, Northwest sought an exemption to extend its startup date to September 1. By Notice of Action Taken dated March 28, 1997, the Department granted the extension. (See Order 97-5-6). Northwest is currently operating four frequencies and seeks an exemption to the extent necessary to extend its proposed startup date for the fifth frequency until June 30, 1998. Northwest states that because of Thailand's current economic conditions, the optimum date to commence its operations for the fifth frequency is June 30, 1998.

Applicant rep.: Megan Rae Poldy, 202-842-3193 DOT analyst: Sylvia Moore, 202-366-6519

DISPOSITION

XX *Granted (see below)*

*The above action was effective when taken: November 28, 1997, through June 30, 1998**

XX *Under assigned authority (14 CFR 385) by:*

*Paul L. Gretch, Director
Office of International Aviation
(Petitions for review may be filed from now until
10 days after the confirming order/letter issues.
Filing of a petition shall not stay the effectiveness of
this action.)*

Remarks: The 90-day dormancy period will begin June 30, 1998, Northwest's proposed new startup date for its fifth U.S.-Thailand all-cargo frequency.

*We acted on this application without awaiting expiration of the 15-day answer period with the consent of all parties served. In this regard Northwest notified the Department that it could not reach all of the parties before expiration of its current startup exemption. We granted Northwest interim authority on November 28, 1997, through December 5, 1997, to provide additional time for Northwest to complete its poll of parties served. On December 3 Northwest informed the Department that it had reached all parties served and obtained no objections to its application. On December 3, 1997, we extended approval of the startup exemption for the fifth frequency to June 30, 1998.