



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 24th day of November, 1999

Served: November 30, 1999

Essential air service at

**IRON MOUNTAIN/KINGSFORD,
MICHIGAN
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA**

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

**Dockets OST-1999-
5175**

**OST-1999-
5173**

**OST-1999-
5177**

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

On March 2, 1999, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express (Great Lakes), filed 90-day notices of intent to suspend its subsidy-free essential air service at Iron Mountain/Kingsford, Michigan, Williston, North Dakota, and North Platte, Nebraska, effective May 31, 1999. By Order 99-5-12, May 24, 1999, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service at the communities for 30 days beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through June 29, 1999, and requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service at the three communities. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through December 1, 1999, by Order 99-11-1.

On June 10, 1999, Great Lakes submitted proposals, with subsidy, for two years at the three communities. In addition, Great Lakes submitted a proposal to provide essential air service at Williston without subsidy. Big Sky Transportation Co. has submitted a late-filed proposal to serve Williston on a subsidy-free basis. Since this case will not be completed before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation at the three communities for an additional 30 days, through December 31, 1999, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR Part 385.

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to maintain essential air service at Iron Mountain/Kingsford, Michigan, Williston, North Dakota, and North Platte, Nebraska, as set forth in Appendix C of Order 99-5-12, for an additional 30-day period through December 31, 1999, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever is first;¹

2. We direct Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years, or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;

3. These dockets will remain open until further order of the Department; and

4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayors and airport managers of Iron Mountain and Kingsford, Michigan, North Platte, Nebraska, and Williston, North Dakota; the Departments of Transportation of Michigan, Nebraska, and North Dakota; and Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

JOHN V. COLEMAN
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

An electronic version of this order is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov>

¹ In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.