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Order 2000-11-21

Served: November 20, 2000



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 15th day of November, 2000

Essential Air Service at

HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA

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

Docket OST-2000-7138 - 7

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department of Transportation is extending Great Lakes' service obligation at Huron, South Dakota, for another 30 days, through December 26, 2000.¹

Background

On March 27, 2000, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend service at Huron, effective June 25, 2000.² By Order 2000-5-27, May 26, 2000, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through July 26, 2000, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through November 24, 2000, by Order 2000-10-26.

Since it is unlikely this case will be concluded before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period, as required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation at Huron for an additional 30 days, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.12(k)(5).

¹ The actual end-date for this 30-day hold-in period is December 24th. Since that date falls on a Sunday and the next day is Christmas, December 26th, the next business day, will serve as the official end-date, making this a 32-day hold-in period. (See 14 CFR 302.16)

² Since that day is a Sunday, the notice's effective date was June 26, 2000.

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require CommutAir, Inc., d/b/a US Airways Express, to maintain air service at Utica, New York, for an additional 30-day period through December 18, 2000, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever occurs first;²

2. We direct Commutair, Inc., d/b/a US Airways Express, to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy 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. Docket OST-2000-7556 will remain open until further order of the Department; and

4. We will serve a copy of this order on the County Executive and Airport Manager of Oneida County, New York, the New York Department of Transportation, and CommutAir, Inc., d/b/a US Airways 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 (10) 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:

RANDALL D. BENNETT
Acting Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

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

² In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend CommutAir's service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.