



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

Notice Shortening Answer Period

DOCKET OST-98-3739

Applicant: **Compagnie Nationale Air France**

Date Filed: April 14, 1998

Air France has requested expedited consideration of its application for an exemption from 49 U.S.C. 41301 to permit it to conduct scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between France and the United States "pursuant to the provisions of the Open Transatlantic Aviation Agreement entered into *ad referendum* between the United States and France on April 8, 1998." Air France states that these operations are scheduled to begin on June 1, and it asks that we reach a decision on an expedited basis. In this connection it requested that we shorten the answer date to April 17. (Answers to the application would normally be due by April 29.) On April 15, 1998, Air France informed us that it had polled the parties served with its application, and that while no party was insisting on the April 29 date, two carriers had requested that the date for answers be April 22 rather than April 17, with April 24 as the date for replies.

In the interest of ensuring that interested parties have an adequate opportunity to respond to Air France's application, we have decided that answers will be due April 22, 1998, and replies to answers will be due April 24, 1998. We believe that our decision reasonably balances the interests of all parties and our own interest in ensuring a complete record, and that no party will be prejudiced by the procedural schedule established.

ACCORDINGLY, consistent with the provisions of 14 CFR §302.406-7, answers to Air France's application shall be due by April 22, 1998, and replies by April 24, 1998.

Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director
Office of International Aviation
under assigned authority (14 CFR 385)

Action date: April 15, 1998