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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 14th day of April, 2000

Essential Air Service at

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

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

Served: April 18, 2000

Docket OST-99-6260 - 7

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

SUMMARY

By this order, the Department of Transportation is extending Great Lakes' service obligation at Mattoon, Illinois, for an additional 30 days, through May 22, 2000.

BACKGROUND

On September 24, 1999, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express (Great Lakes) filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its subsidized service at Mattoon, Illinois, effective December 23, 1999. By Order 99-11-11, November 17, 1999, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through January 21, 2000, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, to provide replacement service at Mattoon. Great Lakes provides two nonstop round trips a day in the Mattoon-Chicago O'Hare market with 19-seat aircraft. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through April 21, 2000, by Order 2000-3-18.

On January 12, Great Lakes submitted a proposal, with subsidy, to provide service in the Mattoon-O'Hare market. However, 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 Mattoon for an additional 30 days, through May 22, 2000, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever comes first.

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

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to maintain essential air service at Mattoon, Illinois, as set forth in Appendix D of Order 99-11-11, for an additional 30-day period through May 22, 2000, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever comes 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 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-99-6260 shall remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and airport manager of Mattoon, Illinois, the Governor of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Transportation, City of Chicago-Department of Aviation, 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 (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>*

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.