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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 8th day of May, 2000

Essential Air Service at

GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

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

Docket OST-1998-4706-17

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department of Transportation is extending Mesa's service obligation at Gallup for another 30 days, through June 7, 2000.

Background

On November 4, 1998, Mesa Airlines, Inc., d/b/a America West Express, filed a 90-day notice of intent to suspend service at Gallup, New Mexico, effective February 3, 1999. By Order 99-2-1, February 5, 1999, the Department prohibited Mesa from suspending service at Gallup for 30 days beyond the end of the 90-day notice period, through March 5, 1999, and requested proposals from air carriers interested in providing replacement service at Gallup. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Mesa's service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through May 8, 2000, by Order 2000-3-28.

Mesa has submitted a proposal in response to the Department's solicitation. However, since it is unlikely that the selection proceeding will be completed before the end of Mesa's current 30-day hold-in period, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Mesa's service obligation at Gallup for an additional 30 days, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Mesa Airlines, Inc., d/b/a America West Express, to maintain essential air service at Gallup, New Mexico, as set forth in Appendix C of Order 99-2-1, for an additional 30-day period, through June 7, 2000, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever occurs first;¹
2. We direct Mesa Airlines, Inc., 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-1998-4706 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 Gallup, New Mexico; the Governor of New Mexico; the Director of the New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department; and Mesa Air Group.

By:

A. BRADLEY MIMS
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(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 Mesa's service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.