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Order 2002-4-7
Served: April 9, 2002



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 9th day of April, 2002

Essential Air Service at:

KLAWOCK, ALASKA

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

Docket OST-02-12018 - 4

**ORDER ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF SERVICE AND APPROVING
TRANSFER OF ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Summary

By this order we are allowing L.A.B. Flying Service to suspend its service at Klawock, Alaska, when Promech Airlines inaugurates its full service as proposed.

Background

On April 1, 2002, L.A.B. Flying Service filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized service at Klawock, Alaska, and requested that it be allowed to suspend service as soon as possible. When it filed notice, L.A.B. was the only carrier providing scheduled service at the community, where it operates 21 nonstop round trips each week to Ketchikan, primarily with single-engine Piper Cherokee aircraft.

Klawock's essential air service determination, as last established by Order 80-1-167, requires at least 34 round trips each week in the peak and 28 in the off-peak to Ketchikan. Small aircraft (less than 10 seats) and up to two intermediate stops are allowed.

Immediately upon receiving L.A.B.'s notice, we contacted Promech Airlines that also operates in southeast Alaska. Promech stated that it would replace L.A.B.'s service by providing 21 round trips a week with DHC-2 Beaver aircraft, with a greater payload than the Piper Cherokee "until business dictates additional flight requirements."

On April 2, 2002, we received a letter from the State of Alaska stating that it did not object to L.A.B.'s terminating service on less than 90 days' notice, provided that Promech's proposed replacement service was fully in place. (The State generally acts as the ombudsman for Alaska communities.)

Decision

We will allow L.A.B. to suspend its service at Klawock on the day that Promech institutes its new service at the community, if it chooses. At that time, we will begin to rely on Promech's service to meet Klawock's essential air service requirements. The new service, 21 round trips per week, is less than the guaranteed level in term of frequency (although the same as provided by L.A.B.), but the State does not object to the transition from L.A.B. to Promech's proposed service on less than the full 90 days.

Before L.A.B. suspends service, however, we expect it to contact all passengers who hold reservations for flights that will be suspended, to inform them of the suspension and the availability of Promech's new service, and to assist them in arranging alternate transportation.

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

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We allow L.A.B. Flying Service to suspend service at Klawock, Alaska, as of the date that Promech Airlines institutes service at the community;
2. We will rely on Promech Airlines to provide essential air service at Klawock, Alaska, beginning on the date that it institutes service;
3. This docket will remain open until further Department order; and

4. We will serve copies of this order on the mayor of Klawock, Alaska, L.A.B. Flying Service, Promech Airlines and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

By:

READ C. VAN DE WATER
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

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