

Order 2001-8-11

Served: August 13, 2001

136027



**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 August, 2001

Essential Air Service at

OTTUMWA, IOWA

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

Docket OST-2000-8323- 13

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department is extending Great Lakes' service obligation at Ottumwa, Iowa, for an additional 30 days, through September 14, 2001.

Background

On November 15, 2000, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express (Great Lakes), filed a series of 90-day notices of its intent to suspend its scheduled air service at Alliance, Chadron, and Norfolk, Nebraska, and Ottumwa, Iowa, effective February 13, 2001. By Order 2000-12-8, December 11, 2000, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service at the communities for an initial 30-day period, through March 15, 2001. That order also requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service. Great Lakes is the only carrier providing scheduled air service at these communities. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through August 15, 2001, by Order 2001-7-7.

By Order 2001-7-11, issued July 18, 2001, the Department tentatively terminated the subsidy eligibility of Ottumwa because the subsidy per passenger exceeds the \$200 statutory ceiling and the community is less than 210 highway miles from a large or medium hub airport. The community has objected to our tentative findings. Consistent with Order 2001-7-11, and longstanding program policy, we will stay the effectiveness of that Order and require Great Lakes to continue to serve Ottumwa until we issue an order acting on the community's objections.

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

ACCORDINGLY,

1. The Department requires Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., d/b/a United Express, to maintain its current level of service at Ottumwa, Iowa, through September 14, 2001, pending disposition of the community's objection to the show-cause order;¹
2. The Department directs Great Lakes to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documents 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-2000-8323 will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. The Department will serve a copy of this order on the parties listed in Docket OST-2000-8323.

By:

SUSAN McDERMOTT
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 Great Lakes' service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until a decision is reached regarding Ottumwa's continuing eligibility.