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Order 2002-1-8

Served: January 24, 2002

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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 18th day of January, 2002

Essential Air Service at	
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA **WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA** **MASON CITY, IOWA** **FORT DODGE, IOWA**	**Docket OST-2001-10642** - 8 **Docket OST-2001-10644** - 3 **Docket OST-2001-10682** - 3 **Docket OST-2001-10684** - 3
under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*	

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends Mesaba's service obligation at Thief River Falls, MN, Watertown, SD, Mason City, IA, and Fort Dodge, IA, for another 30 days, through March 4, 2002.[1]

Background

On September 17, 2001, Mesaba Aviation, Inc., d/b/a Mesaba Airlines (Mesaba), filed 90-day notices of its intent to suspend its subsidy-free service at Thief River Falls, Minnesota and Watertown, South Dakota, effective January 1, 2002. Subsequently, on September 21, 2001, Mesaba filed 90-day notices to suspend service at Fort Dodge and Mason City, IA, also effective January 1, 2002. By Order 2001-12-26, December 31, 2001, the Department prohibited Mesaba from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through January 31, 2002, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service.

Since we have not received any proposals, these cases will not be completed before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period. Thus, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Mesaba's service obligation at the four communities listed above for an additional 30 days, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

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

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[1] Since March 2nd is a Saturday, this hold-in period will be effective through Monday, March 4th. (See 14 CFR 302.16)

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Mesaba Aviation, Inc., d/b/a Mesaba Airlines, to maintain essential air service at Thief River Falls, MN, Watertown, SD, Mason City, IA and Fort Dodge, IA, as specified in ordering paragraph 3 of Order 2001-12-26, for an additional 30-day period through March 4, 2002, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever occurs first;[2]

2. We direct Mesaba 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. Dockets OST-2001-10642, OST-10644, OST-10682 and OST-10684, will remain open until further order of the Department; and

4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayors and Airport Managers of Thief River Falls, Watertown, Mason City and Fort Dodge, the Minnesota DOT, the South Dakota DOT, the Iowa DOT, and Mesaba Aviation, Inc., d/b/a Mesaba Airlines.

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
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

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[2] In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Mesaba's service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.