

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

SERVED JAN 24 1991

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 16th day of January, 1991

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Ninety-Day Notice of           :
                                :
MESA AIRLINES, INC.           :   Docket 43297
                                :
to suspend service at Worland, Wyoming, :
under section 419 of the Federal   :
Aviation Act of 1958, as amended  :
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ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

On April 27, 1989, Mesa Airlines, Inc., filed a notice of its intent to suspend all air service at Worland and Laramie, Wyoming, effective July 27, 1989. Since the proposed suspension of service by Mesa would deprive Worland of all of its essential air service, by Order 89-6-46, June 27, 1989, the Department prohibited Mesa from suspending service at Worland and required the carrier to maintain service at the point for an initial 30-day period while we instituted an essential air service replacement case. 1/ As required by section 419, we have extended Mesa's service obligation for additional 30-day periods. The latest extension, through January 17, 1991, was issued by Order 90-12-32.

Order 89-6-46 also requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service at Worland. Proposals were received from Alpine Aviation, Inc., and from Mesa. On July 26, 1990, however, Alpine withdrew its proposal and notified the Department that it was no longer interested in providing essential air service at Worland.

Rate negotiations with Mesa have been completed. A letter summarizing the carrier's proposal and seeking comments was sent to the civic parties. Comments on the proposal have been received from the State and community, and we expect to forward our recommendation to the Assistant Secretary in the next few weeks.

1/ We did not prohibit Mesa Airlines, Inc., from suspending its service at Laramie since we previously had exempted the carrier from the hold-in requirements of the Act. See Order 89-6-46 for a complete discussion of service at Laramie.

Since we will not have completed this case by the end of the current hold-in period, January 17, 1991, in accordance with section 419(b)(5) of the Act, we will extend Mesa's service obligation at Worland for an additional 30-day period, through February 16, 1991.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR Part 385.

ACCORDINGLY,

1. The Department requires Mesa Airlines, Inc., to maintain service in the Worland-Denver market, as set forth in Appendix B of Order 89-6-46, for an additional 30-day period, through February 16, 1991, or until a carrier that is capable of providing reliable essential air service on a continuing basis actually begins service, whichever occurs first; 2/

2. The Department directs Mesa Airlines, Inc., to retain all books, records and other source and summary documentation, including copies of interline flight coupons, to support claims for payment for the service the carrier is being required to provide, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits the audit and examination thereof by representatives of the Department of Transportation; and

3. The Department will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and airport manager of Worland, Wyoming, the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission, and Mesa Airlines, Inc.

Persons entitled to petition the Department of Transportation for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file their petitions within 10 days after the date of service of this order.

This order shall be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude such effectiveness.

By:

JOHN V. COLEMAN
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

2/ In accordance with section 419, we will extend Mesa's service obligation for successive 30-day periods, as necessary, until we complete the case.