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Served: March 13, 2001



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

NOTICE

**JOINT APPLICATION OF AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.,
TWA AIRLINES, LLC, AND TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.
FOR TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY**

DOCKET OST-01-9027

On January 10, 2001, Trans World Airlines, Inc. (TWA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. On that same date, American Airlines, Inc. (American) announced its intent to purchase substantially all of TWA's assets, including its certificates and other authorities issued by the Department, and to merge TWA's operations with its own. In connection with this process, on March 1, 2001, American, TWA Airlines, LLC (LLC), and TWA (collectively, "the Applicants") filed an application in Docket OST-01-9027 requesting that the Department transfer the certificates and other authorities held by TWA to LLC and American jointly pending the completion of the merger of TWA's operations with American's.¹

Section 302.204(a) of our Procedural Regulations (14 CFR 302.204(a)) provides for answers supporting or opposing transfer applications to be filed within 21 days of the date the application is filed--in this case, by March 21, 2001. However, the Applicants have asked the Department to shorten the answer period to March 14, 2001. In support of this request, they note that they want to consummate the proposed transaction as rapidly as possible so as to maintain TWA's operations for the benefit of the public, the communities served, and TWA's employees. Thus, they argue, there is good cause for a shortened answer period so as to expedite the Department's decision on the application itself.

We have considered the Applicants' request and have decided not to shorten the answer period. We understand that the Bankruptcy Court decided on March 12 to accept American's bid for TWA. Were we to shorten the answer period as requested, interested parties would only have two days from that date to file answers to the application, which seeks the transfer of numerous international route authorities. Moreover, while we appreciate the Applicants' desire to proceed with the closing of the transaction and integration of TWA's operations into American as soon as

¹ LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American. The Applicants also request that interim exemption authority be granted to American and LLC to operate under TWA's authorities pending final Department action on the transfer application.

possible, the application provides no specific information as to why either American's, TWA's or the public's interests will be substantially harmed by the additional seven days allowed under our normal answer period. However, should the applicants wish to request a reduction in the 14-day period for filing replies, we will give any such request careful consideration.

Therefore, we will deny the Applicants' request for a shortened answer period. Answers to the transfer application filed in Docket OST-01-9027 will be due by the close of business on March 21, 2001; replies to answers will be due by close of business on April 4, 2001.

We will serve a copy of this notice on TWA, American, and LLC.

By:

RANDALL D. BENNETT
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

Dated: **March 13, 2001**