

Astral Aviation, Inc.

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
1190 West Franklin Avenue, Oak Brook, IL 60151-4141

Telephone: 414 576 1200
Fax: 414 576 1444
ARINC: FDCSKYX
www.midwestexpress.com

SKYWAY AIRLINES
The Midwest Express Connection

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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August 12, 2002

The Honorable Read Van de Water
Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Astral Aviation, Inc. d/b/a Skyway Airlines

Dear Ms. Van de Water:

Astral Aviation, Inc. d/b/a Skyway Airlines ("Skyway") respectfully requests the Department's approval for a change of timing of two slots held by Skyway and subsequently moved from 2100 to 1600 pursuant to Order 2000-2-33. Specifically, Skyway requests permission to move one afternoon Washington Reagan National Airport ("DCA") arrival and one afternoon DCA departure both of which are currently in the 1600 hour to the 1700 hour, effective October 1, 2002.

Prior to September 11, 2001 Skyway provided Grand Rapids, Michigan's first and only nonstop air service to DCA. On October 1, 2002 Skyway intends to reintroduce this service with two nonstop roundtrip weekday flights, and one nonstop roundtrip flight on Sundays. The pre 9/11 schedule and the proposed October 1, 2002 schedule is set forth below:

Pre September 11, 2001 Schedule

<u>GRR-DCA</u>	<u>DCA-GRR</u>
7:50am-9:25am	9:45am- 11:45am
2:15pm-4:00pm	4:25pm-6:10pm

October 1, 2002 Schedule

<u>GRR-DCA</u>	<u>DCA-GRR</u>
7:55am-9:35am	9:59am-11:45am
3:20pm-5:00pm	5:25pm-7:10pm

Skyway had intended to resume Grand Rapids-Washington, D.C. service prior to October 1, 2002 but its plans were substantially complicated by the fact that the manufacturer of the regional jet operated by Skyway, Fairchild Dornier, has declared insolvency and ceased delivering aircraft to Skyway in accordance with its contractual obligations to do so. Consequently Skyway lacked the number of aircraft units to cover its entire flight

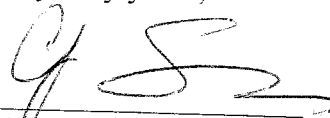
schedule. Skyway has had to reschedule its fleet and aircraft flight patterns with the result being that the flight schedule had to be retimed by moving the two operations at 1600 hours to the 1700 hour.

Approval with this request will be consistent with the provisions of 49 U.S.C. §41714(d) and DOT Order 2000-3-33. Specifically, the retiming of two flight operations will not result in an increase in the number of slots per day at DCA; will not result in an increase in the total number of slots at DCA from 0700 to 2159; will not increase the number of operations at DCA in any one hour period by more than two operations subject to this limitation; will not result in the withdrawal or reduction of slots operated by any other air carrier; and will not result in a net increase in noise impact on surrounding communities.

Given the fact that this request is fully consistent with the statute and prior DOT Orders and given the public benefit to be gained by restoration of the services of Skyway in the Grand Rapids-DCA nonstop market, Skyway respectfully requests your prompt and favorable consideration of this request.

Copies of this letter have been served on all parties in Docket OST-99-6468.

Very truly yours,



Christopher Svoboda
Route Planning Manager