



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010

Essential Air Service at

**ALPENA, MICHIGAN  
HANCOCK/HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN  
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN  
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY  
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI**

**DOCKET OST-2009-0300  
DOCKET OST-2009-0302  
DOCKET OST-2009-0301  
DOCKET OST-2009-0303  
DOCKET OST-2009-0306  
DOCKET OST-2009-0304  
DOCKET OST-2009-0299  
DOCKET OST-2009-0305**

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

**ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION**

**Summary**

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the essential air service (EAS) obligation of Mesaba Aviation, Inc. (Mesaba), at the above-captioned communities, for an additional 30 days, through [February 12, 2010](#).

**Background**

On July 14, 2009, Mesaba filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its subsidized service at the communities captioned above, effective October 12. By Order 2009-7-16, July 16, 2009, the Department prohibited the carrier from suspending service through November 12 at the communities, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Mesaba's service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through [January 13, 2010](#), by Order [2009-12-6](#).

By Order 2009-10-8, issued October 16, 2009, the Department (1) selected SkyWest Airlines to provide replacement service at Eau Claire, WI, Hancock/Houghton and Muskegon, MI, and Paducah, KY; and (2) requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service at Alpena and Sault Ste. Marie, MI, International Falls, MN, and Tupelo, MS.

SkyWest is scheduled to inaugurate service at Muskegon and Paducah on February 11, and at Eau Claire and Hancock/Houghton on February 28. However, since the carrier selection process is still in progress at some communities and replacement service will not have been inaugurated at the others, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will require Mesaba to provide the

service levels at all eight communities as prescribed in the ordering paragraphs of Order 2009-7-16, as adjusted by Order 2009-8-10.<sup>1</sup>

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

**ACCORDINGLY,**

1. We require Mesaba Aviation, Inc., to maintain the level of essential air service at the above-captioned communities as described in Order 2009-7-16, for an additional 30 days, through [February 12, 2010](#), or until suitable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first;<sup>2</sup>
2. We direct Mesaba Aviation, Inc., 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, whichever comes first. 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. These dockets will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve copies of this order on the mayors and airport managers of Alpena, Hancock/Houghton, Muskegon, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Eau Claire, WI, Paducah, KY, Tupelo, MS, and on Mesaba Aviation, Inc.

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:

**TODD M. HOMAN**  
Director  
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at  
[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)*

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<sup>1</sup> As discussed in Footnote 7 of Order 2009-8-10, we are holding Mesaba to 14 nonstop round trips at Hancock/Houghton.

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