

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
Of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Impact of Growing Use of
Regional Jets on Operations and Competition in
the Aviation System
Project Number: 03C3002C000

Date: June 11, 2003

From: Mark R. Dayton
Assistant Inspector General
for Office of Competition and Economic Analysis

Reply to
Attn of: JA-50

To: Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs
Federal Aviation Administrator

The Office of Inspector General will conduct a review of the Department's oversight of the growing use of regional jets (RJs) and the resulting effects on operations and competition in the aviation system. Specifically, we will (1) identify how RJs are being used by airlines to replace and supplement mainline service, introduce new service, and replace service previously operated with turboprop equipment, and (2) estimate the impact of RJs on airfares and services.

The review will be conducted in Washington, D.C. and selected field sites. We will collect information by analyzing reports and conducting interviews with key staff associated with these issues, including regional carriers, pilot union representatives, aviation industry groups, and Government officials. We will also use data sources from the Official Airline Guide and Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

We plan to initiate our review the week of June 16, 2003, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule a formal entrance conference. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-9970, or Stuart Metzger, Program Director, at (202) 366-1981.

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cc: OST Audit Liaison, M-1
FAA Audit Liaison, APF-200