



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

JUL 27 2004

Mr. Walter W. Pike, President
National Association of Air Traffic
Specialists
11303 Amherst Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Mr. Pike:

Wally

Thank you for your letter of July 6 regarding the need to provide information and options to employees potentially impacted by the A-76 study currently underway for the flight service function.

Regardless of legitimate needs to analyze the affordability of options and address collective bargaining issues, I share your concern that there has been undue delay in communicating with employees on these important matters. I understand that you have had two recent meetings with Ray Thoman and Jim Washington to try and finalize an agreement between NAATS and FAA. I am also told that considerable progress was made towards an agreement and that the parties plan to meet again very soon. In the interest of the flight service controllers, it is vital that the parties work out an agreement as quickly as possible.

Reaching an agreement that allows specific information to be provided to potentially impacted employees is a mutual obligation. I am committed to getting it done and I know you are also. Let me assure you that I will be personally monitoring this situation until it is satisfactorily resolved.

Sincerely,

Marion C. Blakey
Administrator