## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

#### FORM 8-K/A

## CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

January 21, 2016 (Date of earliest event reported)

# ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

#### Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-8957 91-1292054

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

19300 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington

98188

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

#### (206) 392-5040

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

| Ц | Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)  |
|---|--|
|   | Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12) |

- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

## ITEM 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

Pursuant to 17 CFR Part 243 ("Regulation FD"), the Company is submitting information relating to its financial and operational outlook in an Investor Update as attached in Exhibit 99.1. The Company is amending the Investor Update furnished in an 8-K earlier this morning (January 21, 2016). The Company expects nonoperating *income* of approximately \$3 million in the first quarter of 2016. The Investor Update furnished this morning incorrectly stated it as nonoperating *expense*, rather than *income*. That change has been made in Exhibit 99.1 in this Form 8-K/A.

In accordance with General Instruction B.2 of Form 8-K, the information under this item and Exhibit 99.2 shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), nor shall such information be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing. This report will not be deemed an admission as to the materiality of any information required to be disclosed solely to satisfy the requirements of Regulation FD.

#### ITEM 9.01 Financial Statements and Other Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1 Investor Update dated January 21, 2016

## Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned

thereunto duly authorized.

# ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. Registrant

Date: January 21, 2016

/s/ Brandon S. Pedersen Brandon S. Pedersen

Vice President/Finance and Chief Financial Officer



This Investor Update has been amended to correctly state the Company's expectation of nonoperating *income* in the first quarter of 2016. The Investor Update furnished earlier this morning, inaccurately described the expectation of nonoperating *expense*. That is the only update in this Investor Update.

References in this update to "Air Group," "Company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Alaska Air Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless otherwise specified.

This update includes forecasted operational and financial information for our consolidated and mainline operations. Our disclosure of operating cost per available seat mile, excluding fuel and other items, provides us (and may provide investors) with the ability to measure and monitor our performance without these items. The most directly comparable GAAP measure is total operating expenses per available seat mile. However, due to the large fluctuations in fuel prices, we are unable to predict total operating expenses for any future period with any degree of certainty. In addition, we believe the disclosure of fuel expense on an economic basis is useful to investors in evaluating our ongoing operational performance. Please see the cautionary statement under "Forward-Looking Information."

We are providing information about estimated fuel prices and our hedging program. Management believes it is useful to compare results between periods on an "economic basis." *Economic fuel expense* is defined as the raw or "into-plane" fuel cost less any cash we receive from hedge counterparties for hedges that settle during the period, offset by the recognition of premiums originally paid for those hedges that settle during the period. Economic fuel expense more closely approximates the net cash outflow associated with purchasing fuel for our operation.

We are also providing our expected capital expenditures and fleet count for future periods. These estimates are based on firm commitments we currently have in place for future aircraft deliveries and our current estimate of non-aircraft capital spending.

#### Forward-Looking Information

This update contains forward-looking statements subject to the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to future events and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause actual outcomes to be materially different from those indicated by any forward-looking statements. For a comprehensive discussion of potential risk factors, see Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. Some of these risks include general economic conditions, increases in operating costs including fuel, competition, labor costs and relations, our indebtedness, inability to meet cost reduction goals, seasonal fluctuations in our financial results, an aircraft accident, and changes in laws and regulations. All of the forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the risk factors discussed therein. We operate in a continually changing business environment, and new risk factors emerge from time to time. Management cannot predict such new risk factors, nor can it assess the impact, if any, of such new risk factors on our business or events described in any forward-looking statements. We expressly disclaim any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements after the date of this report to conform them to actual results. Over time, our actual results, performance or achievements will likely differ from the anticipated results, performance or achievements that are expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements, and such differences might be significant and materially adverse.

# AIR GROUP - CONSOLIDATED

# Forecast Information

|   | Forecast Q1 2016 | Change<br>Y-O-Y | Forecast Full Year<br>2016 | Change<br>Y-O-Y |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Capacity (ASMs in millions)                           | 10,450 - 10,500  | ~ 13.5%         | 43,000 - 43,100            | ~ 8%            |
| Cost per ASM excluding fuel and special items (cents) | 8.47¢ - 8.52¢    | ~(1.5)%         | 8.20¢ - 8.25¢              | ~(1)%           |
| Fuel gallons (000,000)                                | 133              | ~ 12%           | 540                        | ~ 6.5%          |
| Economic fuel cost per gallon(a)                      | \$1.25           | (37)%           | (b)                        | (b)             |

<sup>(</sup>a) Our economic fuel cost per gallon estimate for the first quarter includes the following per-gallon assumptions: crude oil cost - \$0.71 (\$30 per barrel); refining margin - 30 cents; cost of settled hedges - 3 cents, with the remaining difference due to taxes and other into-plane costs.

# Nonoperating Income

We expect that our consolidated nonoperating *income* will be approximately \$3 million in the first quarter of 2016.

# Capital Expenditures<sup>(a)</sup>

Total expected capital expenditures are as follows (in millions):

|   | 2016 (b)  | 2  | 2017 | 2018      | 2019      |
|---|-----------|----|------|-----------|-----------|
| Aircraft and aircraft purchase deposits - firm          | \$<br>450 | \$ | 470  | \$<br>400 | \$<br>345 |
| Other flight equipment                                  | 40        |    | 45   | 40        | 40        |
| Other property and equipment                            | 150       |    | 105  | 85        | 85        |
| Total property and equipment additions                  | \$<br>640 | \$ | 620  | \$<br>525 | \$<br>470 |
| Option aircraft and aircraft deposits, if exercised.(c) | \$<br>65  | \$ | 130  | \$<br>235 | \$<br>350 |

<sup>(</sup>a) Preliminary estimate, subject to change. Figures exclude capitalized interest.

# Projected Fleet Count<sup>(a)</sup>

|                            | Actual F     | leet Count   | Expected Fleet Activity |              |                        |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Aircraft                   | Dec 31, 2014 | Dec 31, 2015 | 2016 Changes            | Dec 31, 2016 | 2017 - 2018<br>Changes | Dec 31, 2018 |
| 737 Freighters & Combis    | 6            | 6            | _                       | 6            | (3)                    | 3            |
| 737 Passenger Aircraft (b) | 131          | 141          | 3                       | 144          | 12                     | 156          |
| Total Mainline Fleet       | 137          | 147          | 3                       | 150          | 9                      | 159          |
| Q400                       | 51           | 52           | _                       | 52           | (15)                   | 37           |
| E-175 <sup>(c)</sup>       | _            | 5            | 10                      | 15           | 8                      | 23           |
| CRJ-700(c)                 | 8            | 8            | (8)                     | _            | _                      | _            |
| Total Regional Fleet       | 59           | 65           | 2                       | 67           | (7)                    | 60           |
| Total Air Group Fleet      | 196          | 212          | 5                       | 217          | 2                      | 219          |
|                            |              |              |                         |              |                        |              |

<sup>(</sup>a) The expected fleet counts at December 31, 2016 and beyond are subject to change.

<sup>(</sup>b) Because of the volatility of fuel prices, we do not provide full-year economic fuel estimates.

<sup>(</sup>b) 2016 capital expenditures declined from previous guidance as we paid \$72 million of pre-delivery purchase deposits in December 2015 that were originally projected to be paid in the first quarter of 2016.

<sup>(</sup>c) Alaska has options to acquire 46 737 aircraft with deliveries from 2018 through 2024, and options to lease 8 E-175 aircraft with deliveries from 2017 to 2018. Horizon has options to acquire 5 Q400 aircraft with deliveries from 2018 through 2019 which we currently do not expect to exercise and the deposits are excluded from the table above.

<sup>(</sup>d) We are currently evaluating an order of up to 30 regional jets for deliveries over the next several years. No commercial terms have been reached, however, if the order is placed in 2016, we would expect additional capital expenditures of up to \$90 million in 2016.

| (b) | 2016 change in 737 passenger aircraft reflects the removal from service of three 737-700 aircraft. These aircraft are being converted to freighters and will |
|-----|--|
|     | return to service in 2017.   |
|     |  |

(c) Aircraft are operated under capacity purchase agreements with a third party.

# AIR GROUP - CONSOLIDATED (continued)

# Future Fuel Hedge Positions

All of our future oil positions are call options, which are designed to effectively cap the cost of the crude oil component of our jet fuel purchases. Our crude oil positions are as follows:

|                     | Approximate % of<br>Expected Fuel<br>Requirements | Weighted-Average<br>Crude Oil Price per<br>Barrel | Average Premium<br>Cost per Barrel |
|---------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| First Quarter 2016  | 50%   | \$74  | \$2                                |
| Second Quarter 2016 | 50%   | \$66  | \$3                                |
| Third Quarter 2016  | 40%   | \$66  | \$3                                |
| Fourth Quarter 2016 | 30%   | \$65  | \$3                                |
| Full Year 2016      | 42%   | \$68  | \$3                                |
| First Quarter 2017  | 20%   | \$60  | \$3                                |
| Second Quarter 2017 | 10%   | \$58  | \$3                                |
| Full Year 2017      | 7%  | \$59  | \$3                                |

# ALASKA AIRLINES - MAINLINE

# Forecast Information

|  | Forecast Q1 2016 | Change<br>Y-O-Y | Forecast Full Year<br>2016 | Change<br>Y-O-Y |
|--|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Capacity (ASMs in millions)                              | 9,350 - 9,400    | ~ 12.5%         | 38,175 - 38,275            | ~ 6.5%          |
| Cost per ASM excluding fuel and special items (cents)(b) | 7.51¢ - 7.56¢    | ~ (1.5)%        | 7.35¢ - 7.40¢              | ~ (0.5)%        |
| Fuel gallons (000,000)                                   | 114              | ~ 11%           | 460                        | ~ 5%            |
| Economic fuel cost per gallon <sup>(a)</sup>             | \$1.25           | ~ (37)%         | (b)                        | (b)             |

<sup>(</sup>a) Please see note (a) in Consolidated for the breakout of economic fuel cost per gallon.

<sup>(</sup>b) Because of the volatility of fuel prices, we do not provide full-year economic fuel estimates.