UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

May 3, 2001 (Date of Report)

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter) Commission file number 1-8957

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

91-1292054 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

19300 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Washington 98188

(Address of principal executive offices) (206) 431-7040

(Registrant's telephone number)

ITEM 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This report may contain forward-looking statements that are based on the best information currently available to management. These forward-looking statements are intended to be subject to the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are indicated by phrases such as "will," "should," "the Company believes," "we expect" or any other language indicating a prediction of future events. There can be no assurance that actual developments will be those anticipated by the Company. Actual results could differ materially from those projected as a result of a number of factors, some of which the Company cannot predict or control. For a discussion of these factors, please see Item 1 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000. The Company expressly disclaims any duty to update these projections, and makes no representation as to their continued accuracy in the event it does not provide such updates.

Provided below are estimates for the second quarter of 2002.

	Forecast Q2	Change Yr/Yr	
Alaska Airlines			
Capacity (ASMs in millions)	4,630	10.0%	
Fuel gallons (000,000)	77.1	4.0%	
Cost per ASM excluding fuel (cents)	8.50	(2.9)%	
Horizon Air			
Capacity (ASMs in millions)	582	0.9%	
Fuel gallons (000,000)	16.3	(1.0)%	
Cost per ASM excluding fuel (cents)	17.10	7.6%	

Fuel cost per gallon including taxes for April 2001 was \$0.93 for Alaska and \$0.96 for Horizon.

Provided below are fleet plan estimates for 2001 - 2002.

		On Hand	Estimated Change During	
Operating Fleet Plan	Seats	YE 2000	2001	2002
Alaska Airlines				
B737-200C	111	8	1	
B737-400	138	40		
B737-700	120	13	3	

MD-80	140	34	(3)	(4)
B737-900	172		5	4*
Total		95	6	0
	_			
Horizon Air				
Dash 8-100/200	37	40	(8)	(4)
Dash 8-400	70		15	,
F-28	69	22	(14)	(8)
CRJ 700	70		7	7
Total		62	0	(5)

^{*} With manufacturer approval, some of these firm orders may be converted to other Next Generation Boeing 737 aircraft.

2

Signature

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: May 3, 2001

/s/ BRADLEY D. TILDEN

Bradley D. Tilden

Vice President/Finance and Chief Financial Officer

3

QuickLinks

Signature