NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

CURTIS L. BROUGHTON
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DENNIS J. LAFONT
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE

MICHAEL G. MCMILLAN
VICE PRESIDENT OF MECHANICAL

JEFFREY D. DAVIS
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

ERICA N. BECK
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
GENERAL COUNSEL

DOUGLAS D. CAMPBELL
VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING

SCOTT D. RICHOUX
VICE PRESIDENT OF TRANSPORTATION

September 4, 2014

Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Railroad Service Outlook Fall 2014

Chairman Elliot:

On behalf of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (NOPB), I am pleased to respond to your invitation to American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ALSRRA) members to provide assessments of their ability to meet expected demands for rail service during the traditional "fall peak".

Our expectations for seasonal peaks in specific commodities' traffic include the following:

- **Crude oil** – During the first part of 2014, we moved approximately 6-8 unit trains per month. From September through December, we expect to handle 18-20 unit trains per month.

- **Paper and pulpboard products** – During the first part of 2014, we handled approximately 30 carloads per week. From September through December, we anticipate increased volume of up to 80 carloads per week.

- **Terephthalic acid** – We anticipate a spot shipment of terephthalic acid this fall that will represent approximately 20 carloads per week.

- **Intermodal traffic** – We expect to experience a 5-10% increase in the volume of intermodal containers handled via rail through the Port of New Orleans this fall.

The NOPB is poised to handle the demands of these increased traffic volumes with eleven available locomotives, a small fleet of 34 leased high-cap box cars, and a group of 66 Trainmen and Engineers comprising 15 daily operating crews. These Transportation Department employees include 15 new hires and 1 additional manager positioned to handle the influx of business. We are prepared to hire more, if needed.

4822 Tchoupitoulas Street
New Orleans, LA 70115-1645
www.nopb.com

(800) 524-3421 Toll Free
(504) 896-7410 Office
(504) 896-7419 Fax

Plans for handling future volume increases beyond the Fall 2014 season include the following:

- addition of a single track at NOPB's Southport Junction at 9,000 feet of track space;
- addition of 5,400 feet of track space in NOPB's France Yard;
- addition of 2 tracks in New Orleans East at 9,000 feet in total; and
- addition of 2 tracks near NOPB's South Bulk Yard at 16,000 feet in total.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the Board and appreciate the Board's interest in the rail industry's ability to provide efficient and reliable service. Please contact me at (504) 896-7410 if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Jeffrey D. Davis
General Manager &
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Anika Cooper, Surface Transportation Board, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chairman *(by email)*
Lucille Marvin, Surface Transportation Board, Office of Public Assistance, Government Affairs, and Compliance *(by email)*