

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub-No. 4)

RAILROAD COST RECOVERY PROCEDURES—PRODUCTIVITY ADJUSTMENT

Decided: February 26, 2010

By decision served on February 1, 2010, the Board proposed to adopt 1.010 (1.0% per year) as the measure of average change in railroad productivity for the 2004-2008 (5-year) averaging period. This value is a decline of 0.5% from the current measure of 1.5% that was developed for the 2003-2007 period.

The February 1, 2010 decision provided an opportunity to file comments regarding any perceived data and computational errors in the Board's calculation. The Board's decision also stated that the proposed productivity adjustment would become effective on March 1, 2010, unless a further order were issued postponing the effective date.

On February 22, 2010, the Board received timely comments from the Western Coal Traffic League (WCTL) regarding the output index calculation for 2008. To allow for adequate consideration of WCTL's comments, we will postpone the effective date of the 2004-2008 productivity adjustment pending further order of the Board.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The effective date of the 2004-2008 productivity adjustment is postponed pending further order of the Board.
2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.