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ALJ

SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE JUNE 19, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 575

REVIEW OF RAIL ACCESS AND COMPETITION ISSUES

Decided: June 18, 1998

Competitive Access

By its Decisions decided April 16 and May 4, 1998, the Board ordered the parties to meet and explore, under the supervision of an Administrative Law Judge, to see if they can mutually identify appropriate modifications to the non-service-related components of the Board's standards that facilitate greater access where needed. The parties have met in lengthy sessions but have failed to reach agreement.

At the continued conference held on June 18, 1998 in this proceeding, the parties mutually agreed on the following dates:

1. Corrections to the transcripts of the meetings and objections to corrections on June 25 and June 30, 1998 respectively;

2. Reports on the negotiations will be filed with the Presiding Judge on July 17, 1998.

Revenue Adequacy

In the same decisions, the parties were to meet and select a three-person panel of disinterested experts to examine the current and alternative measures of a railroad's financial health. The shipper side rejected the idea of a panel but made a revenue adequacy proposal, which was rejected by the railroad parties. However, the railroad parties agreed to consider whether further negotiations would be fruitful and advise the Presiding Judge and the parties of their decision on or before

June 25, 1998. If no further sessions are held, the respective parties will file their reports with the Presiding Judge on July 17, 1998.¹

By the Board, Jacob Leventhal, Administrative Law Judge.

**Vernon Williams
Secretary**

¹After receipt of the parties' reports, the Presiding Judge will certify them and the Record of this proceeding to the Board.