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SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 24, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Section 5a Application No. 46 (Sub-No. 20)

SOUTHERN MOTOR CARRIERS RATE CONFERENCE, INC.

Decided: November 24, 2003

By petition filed on November 14, 2003, EC-MAC Motor Carriers Service Association, Inc. (EC-MAC), and Rocky Mountain Motor Tariff Bureau, Inc. (RMTB), request a 20-day extension, from November 25, 2003, to December 15, 2003, of the deadline for filing a reply to the petition of Southern Motor Carriers Rate Conference, Inc. (SMCRC), to reopen this proceeding for the purpose of obtaining nationwide collective ratemaking authority. In support of their request for an extension, petitioners allege that: (1) the absence of a key official of RMTB will adversely affect the ability of that organization to reply within the 20 days allowed under Board regulations; (2) counsel has numerous other commitments; and (3) the extension would not prejudice SMCRC. By petition filed on November 17, 2003, the National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) requests an extension to the same date, for similar reasons.

The requested extensions are reasonable and will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. The deadline for the submission of a reply to SMCRC's petition by EC-MAC, RMTB, and NITL is extended until December 15, 2003.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary