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SEC

SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 3, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 34364

VERMONT RAILWAY, INC.—PETITION FOR DECLARATORY ORDER

Decided: October 2, 2003

Vermont Railway, Inc. (VTR), filed a petition for declaratory order on June 17, 2003, and a supplemental petition on September 15, 2003. Replies are currently due by October 6, 2003.

By letter filed on September 30, 2003, the State of Vermont (Vermont) informed the Board of its intent to file a reply to VTR's supplemental petition and requests that the Board accept its reply filed on or before October 17, 2003. Vermont indicates that additional time beyond the 20 days set forth in 49 CFR 1104.13(a) is needed because counsel for Vermont was unavailable during the time period surrounding the current due date. These dates of absence were previously submitted to the Board in a "Notice of Unavailability" filed on August 18, 2003.

An extension of the due date for Vermont's response is reasonable and will be granted.

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

It is ordered:

1. The due date for Vermont to file a reply is extended to October 17, 2003.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary