

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 657

RAIL RATE CHALLENGES UNDER THE  
STAND-ALONE COST METHODOLOGY

Decided: March 14, 2005

By Notice of Public Hearing served on February 16, 2005, and published in the Federal Register on February 23, 2005 (70 FR 8874), the Board scheduled a hearing in this proceeding for March 24, 2005. On February 28, 2005, Alliance for Rail Competition and 17 other entities<sup>1</sup> jointly filed a motion for a 30-day extension of the public hearing schedule. They assert that the additional time is required for shippers and their counsel to evaluate the Board's notice, discuss the issues raised, and prepare appropriate responses for submission to the Board in a coordinated fashion.

On March 3, 2005, Snavelly King Majoros O'Connor & Lee, Inc. expressed support for the request. CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Railway Company, and Union Pacific Railroad Company do not object to an extension.

No party will be prejudiced by an extension of time. The request for an extension will be granted.

The hearing will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at the Board's offices in Washington, DC. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should indicate a requested time allotment, as soon as possible but no later than April 15, 2005. Each speaker should also file with the Board his/her written testimony by April 20, 2005. Written submissions by interested persons who do not wish to appear at the hearing will also be due by April 20, 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> The motion was filed by Alliance for Rail Competition, American Public Power Association, Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee, Consumers United for Rail Equity, Edison Electric Institute, Idaho Barley Commission, Idaho Wheat Commission, Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, The National Industrial Transportation League, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Oklahoma Wheat Commission, PPL Montana, LLC, South Dakota Wheat Commission, Texas Wheat Commission, Washington Wheat Commission, and Western Coal Traffic League.

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

It is ordered:

1. The request for an extension of time is granted as discussed above and the hearing date is accordingly changed to April 26, 2005.
2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary