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SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE APRIL 9, 2014

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. EP 724

UNITED STATES RAIL SERVICE ISSUES

Decided: April 9, 2014

By decision served on April 1, 2014, the Board scheduled a public hearing for April 10, 2014, at its offices in Washington, D.C., to provide interested persons the opportunity to report on recent service problems in the United States rail network, to hear from rail industry executives on plans to address their service problems, and to discuss additional options to improve service. In its decision, the Board indicated that the hearing would begin at 9:30 a.m.; however, in order to accommodate the large number of notices of intent to participate received, the hearing will begin at 8:30 a.m. The schedule of appearances, with allotted times, is in the Appendix to this decision. Any party wishing to file written comments may do so by April 17, 2014.

If a party wishes to enhance its presentation by using visual displays and/or handouts, it may do so. Parties may copy computer presentations to a Board-supplied laptop for viewing on the hearing room's television screens. Staff will be available to demonstrate the hearing room's screen system and to assist in the copying of visual presentations onto the hearing room laptop computer on April 9, 2014, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call (202) 245-0238 to make arrangements.

Instructions for Attendance at Hearing

The STB requests that all persons attending the hearing use the main entrance to Patriots Plaza I at 395 E Street, S.W. (entrance on E Street closest to 4th Street). There will be no reserved seating, except for those scheduled to present comments. The building will be open to the public at 7:00 a.m., and participants are encouraged to arrive early. There is no public parking in the building. The two closest Metro stops to the Board are on the Blue and Orange Lines at Federal Center SW, 3rd and D Streets, S.W., and on the Yellow, Green, Orange and Blue Lines at L'Enfant Plaza, 6th and D Streets, S.W.

Upon arrival, check in at the 1st floor security desk in the main lobby. Be prepared to produce valid photographic identification (driver's license or local, state, or Federal government identification); sign in at the security desk; receive a hearing room pass (to be displayed at all times); submit to an inspection of all briefcases, handbags, etc.; and pass through a metal detector. Persons choosing to exit the building during the course of the hearing must surrender their hearing room passes to security personnel and will be subject to the above security procedures if they choose to re-enter the building. Hearing room passes likewise will be

collected from those exiting the hearing upon its conclusion. Those persons testifying must check in with the clerk at the front of the hearing room.

Laptops and recorders may be used in the hearing room, but no provision will be made for connecting personal computers to the internet. Cellular telephone use is not permitted in the hearing room; cell phones may be used quietly in the corridor surrounding the hearing room, or in the building's main lobby.

Members of the media should contact Dennis Watson in the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0234, if they plan to attend the hearing.

The Board's hearing room complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and persons needing such accommodations should call (202) 245-0245, by the close of business on April 9, 2014.

For further information regarding the hearing, contact Valerie Quinn at (202) 245-0382. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339.

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

It is ordered:

1. The hearing will be held on April 10, 2014, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Board's hearing room, at 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC.
2. Time for the hearing is allotted as reflected in the Appendix to this decision.
3. Any party wishing to file written comments may file their comments with the Board by April 17, 2014.
4. This decision is effective on its service date.

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

**APPENDIX
SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES**

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014 (COMMENCING AT 8:30 A.M.)

<u>Party</u>	<u>Time Allotted</u>
The Honorable John Thune (to speak upon arrival) United States Senate, South Dakota	as needed
Panel I	
The United States Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Joseph C. Szabo, FRA Administrator	as needed
State of South Dakota Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of Agriculture	7 minutes
Panel II	
Western Coal Traffic League David McMillan, Senior Vice President, ALLETE External Affairs Bob Kahn, General Manager of Texas Municipal Power Agency	15 minutes
North Dakota Grain Growers Association Bob Wisness, President	5 minutes
The American Chemistry Council Thomas E. Schick, Senior Director, Regulatory & Technical Affairs	15 minutes
National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) DJ Stadtler, Vice President of Operations	10 minutes
Panel III	
Alliance for Rail Competition, et al. Terry C. Whiteside	15 minutes
The American Soybean Association and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association Lance Peterson, American Soybean Association Bill Gordon, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association	15 minutes

CHS Inc. d/b/a Midwest Cooperatives Milton Handcock, General Manager	5 minutes
Dennis Jones, farmer and producer	5 minutes
National Farmers Union Roger Johnson, President	15 minutes
The National Grain and Feed Association Kevin Thompson, Chairman, Rail Shipper/Receiver Committee	15 minutes

Panel IV

BNSF Railway Company Stevan Bobb, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Robert Lease, Vice President, Service Design and Performance	20 minutes
Canadian Pacific Railway Keith Creel, President and Chief Operating Officer	20 minutes

Panel V

The Association of American Railroads Jeffrey Harris, Co-Chairman of the Chicago Planning Group	10 minutes
Canadian National Railway Company Jeff Liepelt, Senior Vice-President Southern Region	10 minutes
CSX Transportation, Inc. Cressie Brown, Vice President – Service Design and Advanced Technology	10 minutes
Norfolk Southern Railway Company Rush Bailey, Assistant Vice President of Service Management	10 minutes
Union Pacific Railroad Company Thomas C. Haley, Assistant Vice President – Network Planning and Design	7 minutes

Panel VI

North Central Bean Dealers Association John Berthold, Director Brian Schanilec	15 minutes
Plains Grain & Agronomy Keith Brandt, General Manager	5 minutes
South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) DuWayne Bosse, farmer and SDFU Marshall County President	15 minutes
South Dakota Wheat Growers Cooperative Hal Clemensen, President of the Board of Directors	5 minutes
United Sugars Corporation John Doxsie, President	5 minutes

Panel VII

The National Coal Transportation Association Tom Canter, Executive Director	10 minutes
TUCO Inc. and NexGen Coal Services, Ltd. Mark L. Adkins, Vice President, NexGen Coal Services, Ltd.	5 minutes
Xcel Energy Thomas A. Imbler, Vice-President Commercial Operations	5 minutes

Panel VIII

Consumers United for Rail Equity Paul Gutierrez, Senior Principal, Legislative Affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	5 minutes
Growth Energy Chris Bliley, Director, Regulatory Affairs	15 minutes
Renewable Fuels Association Ed Hubbard, General Counsel	5 minutes

Northern Tier Energy LP 5 minutes
Kei Rietz, Commercial Manager
Jason Akey, Commercial Operations Manager
Charles H. Banks, President, R.L. Banks and Assoc., Inc.

Panel IX

Occidental Chemical Corporation 5 minutes
Robin A. Burns, Vice President – Supply Chain

NewPage 5 minutes
Gretchen Clark, Director of Logistics and Warehousing

West Linn Paper Company 5 minutes
Scott Dalesandro, Columbia River Logistics Inc.

Normerica Inc. and Northdown Industries Inc. 5 minutes
Adam Manna, General Counsel

AMCOL International Corporation 5 minutes
Jeff Burket, Global Supply Chain Manager

VBR Tours, LLC 5 minutes
Todd Powell, President