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SEC

SERVICE DATE – NOVEMBER 18, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 34505

EAST BROOKFIELD & SPENCER RAILROAD, LLC–LEASE AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION–CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Decided: November 17, 2004

On May 12, 2004, East Brookfield & Spencer Railroad, LLC (EB&SR) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire by lease from CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), and to operate approximately 4 miles of rail line and approximately 270 feet of lead track in East Brookfield and Spencer, Worcester County, MA. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on May 19, 2004. On October 21, 2004, the United Transportation Union (UTU) filed a petition to revoke the exemption and served on EB&SR a discovery request for production of various documents.

By motion filed on November 12, 2004, EB&SR seeks a protective order under 49 CFR 1104.14 with respect to documents produced in discovery in this proceeding. According to EB&SR, the documents requested by UTU contain proprietary and commercially sensitive information the public disclosure of which would be competitively damaging. EB&SR asserts that the protective order is necessary to facilitate discovery and any submission of information to the Board.

Good cause exists to grant the motion for protective order. Issuance of the requested protective order will ensure that the confidential information contained in the documents produced in discovery will be used only in connection with this proceeding and not for any other business or commercial purpose. The motion conforms with the Board's rules at 49 CFR 1104.14 governing requests for protective orders to maintain confidentiality of materials submitted to the Board. Accordingly, the motion for protective order will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. The motion for a protective order is granted, and the Protective Order and Undertaking in the Appendix to this decision are adopted.

2. The confidential documents submitted in this proceeding will be kept under seal by the Board and not placed in the public docket or otherwise disclosed to the public, unless the attached Undertaking is executed and the terms of the Protective Order are followed, or unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

3. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

APPENDIX

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. For purposes of this Protective Order:

(a) “Confidential Documents” means documents and other tangible materials containing or reflecting Confidential Information.

(b) “Confidential Information” means traffic data (including but not limited to waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, and any documents or computer tapes containing data derived from waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, or other data bases, and cost work papers); the identification of shippers and receivers in conjunction with shipper-specific or other traffic data, the confidential terms of contracts with shippers or carriers; confidential financial and cost data; divisions of rates, trackage rights compensation levels and other compensation between carriers; and other confidential or proprietary business or personal information.

(c) “Designated Material” means any documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with paragraph 2 or 3 of this Protective Order and any Confidential Information contained in such materials.

(d) “Proceedings” means those before the Surface Transportation Board (“Board”) concerning the transaction in STB Finance Docket No. 34505, and any related proceedings before the Board, and any judicial review proceedings arising from STB Finance Docket No. 34505 or from any related proceedings before the Board.

2. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed, or served in these Proceedings contains Confidential Information or consists of Confidential Documents, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information and Confidential Documents as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be handled as provided for hereinafter.

3. Information and documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” may not be disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, or to any person or entity except to a counsel of a party to these Proceedings, or an employee working directly with such counsel, who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit A to this Protective Order. A copy of each signed Undertaking must be promptly returned to counsel for East Brookfield & Spencer Railroad, LLC.

4. Designated material may not be used for any purposes, including without limitation any business, commercial or competitive purposes, other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in STB Finance Docket No. 34505, any related proceedings before the Board, and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with STB Finance Docket No. 34505 and/or with any related proceedings.

5. All parties must file simultaneously a public version of any confidential submission filed with the Board.

6. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to the Board, unless the pleading or other document is submitted under seal, in a package clearly marked on the outside as “Confidential Materials Subject to Protective Order.” See 49 CFR 1104.14. All pleadings and other documents so submitted shall be kept confidential by the Board and shall not be placed in the public docket in these Proceedings except by order of the Board or of an administrative law judge or other officer in the exercise of authority lawfully delegated by the Board.

7. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to any forum other than this Board in these Proceedings unless: (1) the pleading or other document is submitted under seal in accordance with a protective order that requires the pleading or other document to be kept confidential by that tribunal and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, or (2) the pleading or other document is submitted in a sealed package clearly marked, “Confidential Materials Subject to Request for Protective Order,” and is accompanied by a motion to that tribunal requesting issuance of a protective order that would require the pleading or other document be kept confidential and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, and requesting that if the motion for protective order is not issued by that tribunal, the pleading or other document be returned to the filing party.

8. No party may present or otherwise use any Designated Material at a Board hearing in these Proceedings, unless that party has previously submitted, under seal, all proposed exhibits and other documents containing or reflecting such Designated Material to the Board, to an administrative law judge or to another officer to whom relevant authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board, and has accompanied such submission with a written request that the Board, administrative law judge or other officer: (a) restrict attendance at the hearing during any discussion of such Designated Material, and (b) restrict access to any portion of the record or briefs reflecting discussion of such Designated Material in accordance with this Protective Order.

9. If any party intends to use any Designated Material in the course of any deposition in these Proceedings, that party shall so advise counsel for the party producing the Designated Material, counsel for the deponent, and all other counsel attending the deposition. Attendance at any portion of the deposition at which any Designated Material is used or discussed shall be restricted to persons who may review that material under the terms of this Protective Order. All

portions of deposition transcripts or exhibits that consist of, refer to, or otherwise disclose Designated Material shall be filed under seal and be otherwise handled as provided in paragraph 10 of this Protective Order.

10. Any party who receives Designated Material in discovery shall destroy such materials and any notes or documents reflecting such materials (other than file copies of pleadings or other documents filed with the Board and retained by counsel for a party to these Proceedings) at the earlier of: (1) such time as the party receiving the materials withdraws from these Proceedings, or (2) the completion of these Proceedings, including any petitions for reconsideration, appeals, or remands.

11. All parties must comply with all of the provisions of this Protective Order unless the Board or an administrative law judge or other officer exercising authority lawfully delegated by the Board determines that good cause has been shown warranting suspension of any of the provisions herein.

12. Nothing in this Protective Order restricts the right of any party to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Information originated by that party, or to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Documents originated by that party, if such Confidential Information or Confidential Documents do not contain or reflect any Confidential Information originated by any other party.

EXHIBIT A

UNDERTAKING

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____, have read the Protective Order served on November 18, 2004, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in STB Finance Docket No. 34505, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or to permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in STB Finance Docket No. 34505, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board (“Board”), and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with STB Finance Docket No. 34505 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed Undertakings in the form hereof, and that at the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting materials designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL,” other than file copies, kept by counsel, of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that Applicants or other parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

Dated: _____