

SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 8, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Sec. 5a Application No. 118 (Amendment No. 1), *et al.*¹

EC-MAC MOTOR CARRIERS SERVICE ASSOCIATION, INC., *ET AL.*

Decided: August 7, 1997

By motion filed August 5, 1997, the Health & Personal Care Distribution Conference, Inc., and the National Small Shipments Traffic Conference, Inc. (the Conferences), request a 60-day extension of the August 18, 1997 deadline (until October 17, 1997, which is the current due date for reply comments) for filing opening comments in these proceedings. The Conferences assert that an extension is needed in order to give the shippers represented by the Conferences and the rate bureaus involved in these proceedings an opportunity to negotiate “some compromise which would remove the objections which shippers might have to the continuation of antitrust immunity for rate bureaus” before the parties “become locked into positions through their opening statements.”

The requested extension will be denied as the Conferences have not offered a good reason for a delay. The Conferences and the rate bureaus may continue to negotiate even after the filing of comments if they choose to do so.

It is ordered:

1. The Conferences’ motion for an extension is denied.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

¹ This decision embraces six other motor carrier rate bureau applications: Sec. 5a Application No. 34 (Amendment No. 8), *Middlewest Motor Freight Bureau, Inc.*; Sec. 5a Application No. 46 (Amendment No. 20), *Southern Motor Carriers Rate Conference, Inc.*; Sec. 5a Application No. 22 (Amendment No. 7), *Pacific Inland Tariff Bureau, Inc.*; Sec. 5a Application No. 60 (Amendment No. 10), *Rocky Mountain Motor Tariff Bureau, Inc.*; Sec. 5a Application No. 45 (Amendment No. 13), *Niagara Frontier Tariff Bureau, Inc.*; and Sec. 5a Application No. 25 (Amendment No. 8), *The New England Motor Rate Bureau, Inc.* Certain issues in *Southern Motor Carriers Rate Conference, Inc.*, have been made the subject of a separate *Federal Register* notice in that docket.