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SEC

SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE APRIL 21, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 575

REVIEW OF RAIL ACCESS AND COMPETITION ISSUES

Decided: April 21, 1998

In a decision issued on April 17, 1998, the Board requested representatives of the shipping community and rail industry to meet, under the supervision of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), and select a mutually acceptable panel of three disinterested experts to examine the current and alternative measures of a railroad's financial health, and to make recommendations as to the appropriate standard that the Board should apply. The Board also directed railroads to meet with a broad range of shipper interests, again under the supervision of an ALJ, to address concerns related to the Board's "competitive access" rules. The purpose of this order is to designate Administrative Law Judge Jacob Leventhal to serve as the ALJ in these matters, and to set up a conference of interested parties to begin addressing these matters.

It is ordered:

1. Judge Jacob Leventhal is designated as the ALJ in these matters. All communications to Judge Leventhal shall be sent to his office at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Administrative Law Judges, 888 First Street, N.E., Suite 11F, Washington, D.C. 20426. Judge Leventhal may be reached at (202) 219-2538.
2. A conference will be held, with Judge Leventhal presiding, on April 28, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in a hearing room of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. Administrative Law Judge Jacob Leventhal shall be added to the service list in this proceeding, and a copy of this decision shall be served on Judge Leventhal.
4. This decision is effective upon its service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary