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SEC

SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE APRIL 16, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 646

RAIL RATE CHALLENGES IN SMALL CASES

Decided: April 15, 2003

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at its offices in Washington, DC, to provide rail shippers, railroads, and other interested persons an opportunity to express their views and proposals regarding rail rate challenges in small cases to be considered by the Board. The hearing will take place in the Board's Hearing Room—Suite 760, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC. By notice served on April 1, 2003, the Board requested that persons seeking to participate in this hearing file a notice of intent to participate, by April 11, 2003, and indicate the time requested to speak. The schedule of appearances and the time provided for speakers are set out in the Appendix to this decision.

It is ordered:

1. Time for oral presentations is allotted in the Appendix to this decision.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

**APPENDIX
SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES**

<u>Party</u>	<u>Time Allotted</u>
<u>Panel I: Government Entities</u>	
U.S. Department of Transportation Paul Samuel Smith	3 minutes
North Dakota Public Service Commission, North Dakota Grain Dealers Association, and North Dakota Wheat Commission Tony Clark	10 minutes
<u>Panel II: Shippers</u>	
National Grain and Feed Association Kendell W. Keith	12 minutes
American Chemistry Council (To Be Announced)	10 minutes
The Fertilizer Institute Jeffrey O. Moreno	5 minutes
The National Industrial Transportation League Jeffrey O. Moreno	15 minutes
<u>Panel III: Railroads and Rail Labor</u>	
Association of American Railroads Samuel M. Sipe, Jr.	20 minutes
United Transportation Union - GO 386 (John D. Fitzgerald, General Chairman) Gordon P. MacDougall	5 minutes