

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 33290

SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE CO.--ACQUISITION AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION--LINES OF UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Decided: April 2, 1997

By motion filed March 19, 1997, Inland Steel Company and LTV Steel Company, Inc. (collectively, protestants) move for an order compelling the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Co. (SSMB) and affiliates to respond to protestants' document production requests served January 6, 1997. Protestants also request assignment of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to handle this and any further discovery disputes. By motion filed March 27, 1997, protestants request a 32-day extension, to May 5, 1997, of the April 3, 1997 due date to file supplemental evidence and argument in this proceeding. Protestants assert that the extension is necessary because they have been unable to complete discovery. SSMB replied on April 2, 1997,¹ and requests that the procedural schedule be held in abeyance until completion of discovery. SSMB states that it does not object to the assignment of this proceeding to an ALJ for discovery purposes. The procedural schedule will be held in abeyance pending completion of discovery and this proceeding will be assigned to an ALJ in a subsequent decision.

It is ordered:

1. The due date for protestants' opening statement is vacated and the procedural schedule is held in abeyance. A new procedural schedule will be issued when discovery is completed.
2. This proceeding will be assigned to an ALJ to entertain and rule on all discovery disputes.
3. The parties must notify the Board on the completion of discovery.
4. This decision is effective on the service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

¹ SSMB's reply was mailed to the Board for filing. A copy was also faxed to the Board's Office of Proceedings. In order to expedite this decision, the faxed copy has been relied on.