

36835
SEC

SERVICE DATE – APRIL 6, 2006

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. 42096

ALBEMARLE CORPORATION—PETITION FOR DECLARATORY ORDER—CERTAIN
RATES AND PRACTICES OF THE LOUISIANA AND NORTH WEST RAILROAD
COMPANY

Decided: April 4, 2006

On February 1, 2006, Albemarle Corporation (Albemarle) filed a petition for declaratory order seeking a determination by the Board of the reasonableness of certain rates, charges and practices of The Louisiana and North West Railroad Company (LNW). Albemarle filed an amendment to its petition on February 23, 2006. On February 28, 2006, LNW filed a reply to the petition and amendment.

In a letter filed on March 3, 2006, Albemarle informed the Board that the parties have agreed to engage in mediation and have scheduled it for April 24 and 25, 2006. Albemarle states that it is authorized to advise the Board that LNW concurs in the report concerning mediation and the request to hold this matter in abeyance. Accordingly, Albemarle requests that the Board hold this matter in abeyance pending completion of mediation.

The request to hold this proceeding in abeyance is reasonable and will be granted. The parties are directed, however, to file, within 30 days after the conclusion of the scheduled mediation, a joint report with the Board on the results of the mediation.

It is ordered:

1. Albemarle's request to hold this proceeding in abeyance is granted.
2. The parties are directed to file with the Board a joint report on the results of mediation within 30 days after the conclusion of the scheduled mediation.
3. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary