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SEC

SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE OCTOBER 17, 2006

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 665

RAIL TRANSPORTATION OF GRAIN

Decided: October 17, 2006

By a notice served on October 11, 2006, the Board scheduled a public hearing on November 2, 2006, to provide interested persons a forum to discuss issues associated with the transportation of grain by railroad. Interested persons were directed to file notices of intent to participate by October 23, 2006, and written testimony, as well as written submissions by non-speakers, by October 30, 2006.

On October 13, 2006, National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) submitted a letter seeking a postponement of the hearing. NGFA notes that it and other industry groups are preparing opening comments in Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases, STB Ex Parte No. 646 (Sub-No. 1) that are due on October 24, 2006. NGFA asks, alternatively, that the Board conduct the hearing in two separate proceedings, one on November 2, 2006, and another in January 2007.

The request will be denied. The public has been on notice of the Board's intent to hold a public hearing this Fall regarding these issues since the Board's announcement on July 28, 2006. Moreover, it is premature to consider whether to hold a further hearing in January 2007, or at some later time, until after the November 2 hearing has taken place.

It is ordered:

1. The request to postpone the November 2, 2006 public hearing is denied.
2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary