

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36025

TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE, INC. & TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD, LLC—PETITION FOR EXEMPTION—PASSENGER RAIL LINE BETWEEN DALLAS AND HOUSTON, TEX.

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Decided: June 20, 2016

By motion filed June 9, 2016, Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure, Inc. (TCRI) and Texas Central Railroad, LLC (TCRR) (collectively, Texas Central), seek a protective order under 49 C.F.R. § 1114.21(c) to govern the exchange of confidential information during the discovery process and the use of such information in filings in this proceeding. Included with the motion are a proposed protective order and undertakings. Texas Central submits that a protective order is necessary to protect proprietary and commercially sensitive information, the public disclosure of which could have an adverse competitive impact on Texas Central.

Good cause exists to grant the motion for protective order. The motion conforms to the Board's rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1104.14 governing protective orders to maintain the confidentiality of materials submitted to the Board. Issuance of the protective order will ensure that confidential information will be used solely for this proceeding and not for other purposes. Accordingly, the motion for protective order will be granted, and the protective order and undertakings, as modified, attached in the Appendix to this decision will be adopted.¹

It is ordered:

1. The motion for a protective order is granted, and the protective order and undertakings in the Appendix to this decision are adopted.

¹ By letter filed June 13, 2016, Connie Shivvers requests that the Board reject the motion for protective order, disputing Texas Central's assertion that public disclosure of certain information would have an adverse competitive impact and asserting that the public has a right to be properly informed of the project. By issuing a protective order, the Board seeks to facilitate the discovery process and exchange of information among parties by ensuring that any commercially sensitive or proprietary information remains protected and used solely for this proceeding. If a party suspects that information or documents have been improperly designated "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential," the protective order provides that a party may challenge such designation.

2. The parties are directed to comply with the protective order set forth in the Appendix to this decision.

3. Materials designated as confidential or highly confidential will be kept under seal by the Board and not placed in the public docket or otherwise disclosed to the public, unless the attached undertakings are executed and the terms of the protective order are followed, or unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

4. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

APPENDIX

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. For purposes of this Protective Order:

(a) “Confidential Documents” means documents and other tangible materials containing or reflecting Confidential Information.

(b) “Confidential Information” means traffic data (including but not limited to waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, and any documents or computer tapes containing data derived from waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, or other data bases, and cost work papers), the identification of specific customers or potential customers, the confidential terms of contracts with customers, suppliers, carriers or other entities, confidential financial and cost information, and other confidential or proprietary business or personal information.

(c) “Designated Material” means any documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with paragraphs 2 or 3 of this Protective Order, and any Confidential Information contained in such materials.

(d) “Proceedings” means those before the Surface Transportation Board (“Board”) concerning the Petition for Exemption filed in Docket No. FD 36025, and any related proceedings before the Board, and any judicial review proceedings arising from the same or from any related proceedings before the Board.

2. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed or served in these Proceedings contains Confidential Information or consists of Confidential Documents, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information and Confidential Documents as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be handled as provided for hereinafter.

3. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed or served in these Proceedings contains rate or cost data, marketing or financial materials, or other competitively sensitive or proprietary information, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents so designated or stamped shall be handled as provided hereinafter.

4. Information and documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” may not be

disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity except to an employee, counsel, consultant, or agent of a party to these Proceedings, or an employee of such counsel, consultant, or agent, who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit A to this Order.

5. Information and documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” may not be disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, to any employee of a party to these Proceedings, or to any other person or entity except to an outside counsel or outside consultant to a party to these Proceedings, or to an employee of such outside counsel or outside consultant, who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit B to this Order.

6. Any party to these Proceedings may challenge the designation by any other party of information or documents as “CONFIDENTIAL” or as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” by filing a motion with the Board or with an administrative law judge or other officer to whom authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board to adjudicate such challenges.

7. Designated Material may not be used for any purposes, including without limitation any business, commercial or competitive purposes, other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in Docket No. FD 36025, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with Docket No. FD 36025 and/or with any related proceedings.

8. Any party who receives Designated Material in discovery shall destroy such materials and any notes or documents reflecting such materials (other than file copies of pleadings or other documents filed with the Board and retained by outside counsel for a party to these Proceedings) at the earlier of (1) such time as the party receiving the materials withdraws from these Proceedings, or (2) the completion of these Proceedings, including any petitions for reconsideration, appeals, or remands.

9. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to the Board, unless the pleading or other document is submitted under seal, in a package clearly marked on the outside as “Confidential Materials Subject to Protective Order.” See 49 C.F.R. § 1104.14. All pleadings and other documents so submitted shall be kept confidential by the Board and shall not be placed in the public docket in these Proceedings except by order of the Board or of an administrative law judge or other officer in the exercise of authority lawfully delegated by the Board.

10. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to any forum other than this Board in these Proceedings

unless (1) the pleading or other document is submitted under seal in accordance with a protective order that requires the pleading or other document to be kept confidential by that tribunal and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, or (2) the pleading or other document is submitted in a sealed package clearly marked, "Confidential Materials Subject to Request for Protective Order," and is accompanied by a motion to that tribunal requesting issuance of a protective order that would require the pleading or other document be kept confidential and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, and requesting that if the motion for protective order is not issued by that tribunal, the pleading or other document be returned to the filing party.

11. No party may present or otherwise use any Designated Material at a Board hearing in these Proceedings, unless that party has previously submitted, under seal, all proposed exhibits and other documents containing or reflecting such Designated Material to the Board, or to an administrative law judge or other officer to whom relevant authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board, and has accompanied such submission with a written request that the Board, administrative law judge or other officer (a) restrict attendance at the hearing during any discussion of such Designated Material, and (b) restrict access to any portion of the record or briefs reflecting discussion of such Designated Material in accordance with this Protective Order.

12. If any party intends to use any Designated Material in the course of any deposition in these Proceedings, that party shall so advise counsel for the party producing the Designated Material, counsel for the deponent, and all other counsel attending the deposition. Attendance at any portion of the deposition at which any Designated Material is used or discussed shall be restricted to persons who may review that material under the terms of this Protective Order. All portions of deposition transcripts or exhibits that consist of, refer to, or otherwise disclose Designated Material shall be filed under seal and be otherwise handled as provided under the terms of this Protective Order.

13. To the extent that materials reflecting Confidential Information are produced by a party in these Proceedings, and are held and/or used by the receiving person in compliance with the terms of this Protective Order, such production, disclosure, holding, and use of the materials and of the data that the materials contain are deemed essential for the disposition of this and any related proceedings and will not be deemed a violation of 49 U.S.C. § 11904 or of any other relevant provision of the ICC Termination Act of 1995.

14. All parties must comply with all of the provisions of this Protective Order unless the Board or an administrative law judge or other officer exercising authority lawfully delegated by the Board determines that good cause has been shown warranting suspension of any of the provisions herein.

15. Nothing in this Protective Order restricts the right of any party to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Information originated by that party, or to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Documents originated by that party, if such Confidential Information or Confidential Documents do not contain or reflect any Confidential Information originated by any other party.

16. All parties must file simultaneously a public version of any Highly Confidential or Confidential submission filed with the Board whether the submission is designated a Highly Confidential Version or Confidential Version. When filing a Highly Confidential Version, the filing party does not need to file a Confidential Version with the Board, but must make available (simultaneously with the party's submission to the Board of its Highly Confidential Version) a Confidential Version reviewable by any other party's in-house counsel. The Confidential Version may be served on other parties in electronic format only. In lieu of preparing a Confidential Version, the filing party may (simultaneously with the party's submission to the Board of its Highly Confidential Version) make available to outside counsel for any other party a list of all "highly confidential" information that must be redacted from its Highly Confidential Version prior to review by in-house personnel, and outside counsel for any other party must then redact that material from the Highly Confidential Version before permitting any clients to review the submission.

Exhibit A

UNDERTAKING – CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____ have read the Protective Order served on June 21, 2016, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in Docket No. FD 36025, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in Docket No. FD 36025, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with Docket No. FD 36025 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed Undertakings in the form hereof, and that at the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting materials designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL,” other than file copies, kept by outside counsel, of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

Name: _____

Dated: _____

Exhibit B

UNDERTAKING – HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____ am outside [counsel] [consultant] for _____, for whom I am acting in this proceeding. I have read the Protective Order served on June 21, 2016, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in Docket No. FD 36025, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or to permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in Docket No. FD 36025, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, or any judicial review proceedings in connection with Docket No. FD 36025 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed undertakings in the form hereof.

I also understand and agree, as a condition precedent to my receiving, reviewing, or using copies of any information or documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” that I will take all necessary steps to assure that said information or documents be kept on a confidential basis by any outside counsel or outside consultants working with me, that under no circumstances will I permit access to said materials or information by employees of my client or its subsidiaries, affiliates, or owners, and that at the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting information or documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” other than file copies, kept by outside counsel, of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this undertaking and that other parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

Name: _____
OUTSIDE [COUNSEL] [CONSULTANT]

Dated: _____