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SEC

SERVICE DATE - DECEMBER 21, 2001

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Section 5a Application No. 61 (Sub-No. 6)

NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE – AGREEMENT

Section 5a Application No. 61

NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE – AGREEMENT

Decided: December 19, 2001

In its decision served on November 20, 2001, the Board renewed its approval of the National Classification Committee (NCC) agreement, subject to the condition that NCC amend its agreement as specified in that decision. NCC was directed to submit a proposed revised agreement to the Board within 60 days, by January 22, 2002. Responses from other parties were due by February 19, 2002. NCC's reply was due by March 5, 2002.

By petition filed on December 12, 2001, NCC and its parent organization, the National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. (NMFTA), request an extension of time for NCC to file a proposed revised agreement, from January 22, 2002, until March 20, 2002. NMFTA maintains that it needs an extension because it must make substantive changes to its agreement, as well as consult with shipper representatives, prior to submitting its revised agreement, and that this will take considerable time. NCC claims that its next opportunity to make key decisions will be at its scheduled general meeting on January 31, 2002, and notes that the current schedule includes Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King's birthday, and all other intervening holidays and that the time available for drafting and consultation will be minimal due to the customary need to perform administrative tasks by year's end. NCC also points out that, in its parallel decision in EC-MAC Motor Carriers Service Association, Inc., et al., STB Section 5a Application No. 118 (Sub-No. 2), et al. the Board allowed the rate bureaus more time (120 days) for the submission of their revised agreements than was allowed here. NCC represents that the requested extension is not opposed by the Health and Personal Care Distribution Conference, Inc., the National Small Shipments Traffic Conference, or the National Industrial Transportation League.

The extension requested by NCC and NMFTA appears reasonable and will be granted. A corresponding extension will be allowed for the submission of reply statements.

It is ordered:

1. The extension requested by NCC and NMFTA is granted, and NCC is now directed to submit a proposed revised agreement to the Board, with service on all parties to these proceedings, by March 20, 2002. Any other party may file a response, with service on all other parties, by April 19, 2002. NCC may file a reply, with service on all other parties, by May 3, 2002.
2. This decision is effective on December 21, 2001.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary