



**Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service**

Transportation  
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Program

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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
September 27, 2012

Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Public Record

RE: STB Ex Parte No. 711, Petition for Rulemaking to Adopt Revised Competitive Switching Rules

### **Request for Schedule Revision**

Dear Sirs:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests that you delay the schedule for this proceeding to allow for a thorough analysis of the Waybill Sample and preparation of USDA comments. USDA has contracted with a consulting firm to analyze the Waybill Sample to determine the effects of requiring Class I railroads to provide competitive switching for shippers within 30 miles of an interchange point with a competing Class I railroad. The consulting firm has notified us that they are unable to produce the data analysis within the time period required by us for a November 23 filing of comments. Thus, USDA requests an extension until March 1, 2013 for the filing of initial comments. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

J. Bruce Blanton  
Director