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*Surface Transportation Board*  
*Washington, D.C. 20423-0001*

*Office of Economics*

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Office of Proceedings  
July 8, 2014  
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Public Record

July 3, 2014

Mr. J. Bruce Blanton, Director  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Transportation Services Division  
1400 Independence Avenue SW Rm. 4534  
Stop 0266  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Blanton:

We are in receipt of your email dated July 2, 2014 seeking permission to review study results from filings in *Rail Transportation of Grain, Rate Regulation Review*, Docket No. EP 665 (Sub-No.1). Your request has been approved and you are hereby granted authority to review any study results in this proceeding.

The studies being reviewed may contain confidential shipper and railroad data. As a result, these studies may contain commercially sensitive data and may have the potential for competitive harm to railroads, including third-party railroads. These study results may be accessed only by employees of your firm in this proceeding, have a need to know, review, or handle the confidential material for purposes of the proceeding, including testifying and consulting experts, provided each such person has been given and has read a copy of this letter, agrees to be bound by its terms, and executes the attached undertaking prior to receiving access to these study results.

Therefore, the following agreement must be signed before these study results can be released.

Your signature acknowledges your agreement to comply with the following:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is hereby granted authority to review any study results in this proceeding.
2. These study results may be disclosed only to (USDA) employees, who have a need to know, review, or handle these study results for purposes of this proceeding, including testifying and consulting experts, provided each such person has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order, agrees to be bound by its terms, and executes the attached Undertaking for these study results prior to receiving access to such materials.

3. These study results shall be used by USDA solely for the purpose of this proceeding and any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, and not for any other business, commercial, or competitive purpose.
4. All copies of these study results must be destroyed at the completion of this proceeding and any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom.
5. Violations of this protective order are subject to sanctions by the Board under 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(g).
6. Egregious violations of this protective order, as determined by the Board, may be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, disbarment from representing or presenting evidence on behalf of any client in any Board proceeding or matter for a period of time determined by the Board.
7. Improper disclosure of these study results is also subject to civil penalties under 49 U.S.C. § 11904.

We would appreciate your signing and returning this agreement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



William F. Huneke  
Director & Chief Economist

Agreed:

United States Department of Agriculture



Signature

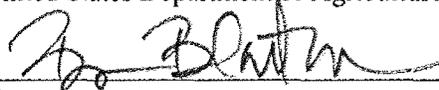
Mr. J. Bruce Blanton  
Name - Please Print

Director, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES Division, AMS  
Title

7/8/14  
Date

I have read and understand the conditions for release of study results in this proceeding. I agree to comply fully with these conditions and the provisions of this confidentiality agreement. At the conclusion of this proceeding, *Rail Transportation of Grain, Rate Regulation Review*, Docket No. EP 665 (Sub-No. 1), and any judicial appeal, I will not share information pertaining to these filings. I understand that failure to adhere to these rules may prevent me or the USDA from receiving any future release of Waybill Information and or data from the STB. I further understand that violations of the agreement are subject to sanctions by the Board and civil penalties.

United States Department of Agriculture

  
Signature

Mr. J. Bruce Blanton  
Name - Please Print

Director, Transportation Services Division, AMS  
Title

7/8/14  
Date

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For STB use only:

Signed Agreement Returned: