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FD 34079

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Williams,

Attached you will please find our verified statement of support for the Bayport Loop Build-out that is currently under review. We certainly encourage and appreciate your taking it into consideration as this very important matter is studied.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Very truly yours,

Jim Bilek
Jim Bilek
Logistics Manager

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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Finance Docket No. 34079

San Jacinto Rail Limited – Authority to Construct – and
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company –
Authority to Operate – Build-Out to the Bayport Loop in
Houston, Harris County, TX



Verified Statement of Jim Bilek
On Behalf of OMNOVA Solutions Inc.,
In Support of the Bayport Loop Build-Out

My name is Jim Bilek. I have been employed at OMNOVA Solutions Inc. since March 2000. My current position is Logistics Manager, Performance Chemicals. My business address is 175 Ghent Rd. Fairlawn, Ohio 44333. OMNOVA Solutions Inc. maintains its corporate headquarters in Fairlawn. I am responsible for all of the transportation requirements and freight economics for our Performance Chemicals segment.

OMNOVA Solutions Inc. is a leading provider of a variety of coatings, specialty chemicals, and decorative and functional surfaces. The Company was spun off from GenCorp Inc. in October 1999 and has annual sales of approximately \$737 million. We have multiple facilities located throughout the eastern half of the United States that receive millions of pounds of raw materials from a variety of suppliers. The majority of those volumes are brought in via railcar. A significant portion of those materials source from points in the Texas Gulf region. This includes producers or sites in the Bayport region that currently have non-competitive rail access.

OMNOVA also ships a significant amount of its' outbound product in the Chemicals segment via rail. Thus, we are familiar with the economic benefits that can result from competitive rail access to facilities. We are impacted by captive rail situations at our own plants, as well as some of the raw materials providers, leaving us few competitive alternatives. Obviously, the captive site scenario is one that continues to dominate the landscape and appropriately is the key focus at an upcoming major chemical conference.

We applaud the efforts of San Jacinto Rail Limited and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company to construct a new rail line which will provide alternative rail service to the plants in the Bayport Industrial District. If a Bayport producer can become more competitive, the economic benefits should not only assist them, but also current or potential customers, such as us. We encourage the Surface Transportation Board's approval of this project.

I hereby affirm upon penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true based on my knowledge and information.

Jim Bilek
Jim Bilek
Logistics Manager

Dated: November 21, 2002

FD - 34279

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE



I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Comments of Jim Bilek, dated November 21, 2002, has been served on all parties of record by first-class mail this 10th day of December 2002.

Jim Bilek
Logistics Manager
OMNOVA Solutions Inc.

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