

## STB EX PARTE NO. 527

EXPEDITED PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING RAIL RATE  
REASONABLENESS, EXEMPTION AND REVOCATION  
PROCEEDINGS

49 CFR Parts 1011, 1104, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, and 1121

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*Decided November 1, 1996*

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AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Final rules; postponement of effective date.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) amended its *Rules of Practice* at 49 CFR 1100-1149 in *Expedited Procedures For Processing Rail Rate*, 1 S.T.B. 731 (1996), and published at 61 Fed. Reg. 52,710 (1996). The rules were scheduled to become effective November 7, 1996. The Board is postponing the effective date of the rules to November 16, 1996, to allow sufficient time to consider the petitions to reopen that have been filed in this proceeding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective November 6, 1996, the effective date of the final rules published at 61 Fed. Reg. 52,710 (1996) is delayed until November 16, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas J. Stilling, (202) 927-7312. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board issued final rules in *Expedited Procedures For Processing Rail Rate*, 1 S.T.B. 731 (1996) and published at 61 Fed. Reg. 52,710 (1996), with an effective date of November 7, 1996. Joseph C. Szabo, for and on behalf of United Transportation Union-Illinois Legislative Board, filed a petition to reopen and a petition to stay a portion of the decision pending disposition of its petition to reopen. The National Industrial Traffic League (NITL) filed a petition for reopening and reconsideration.

1 S.T.B.

Under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 721(a), I am issuing a "housekeeping" postponement of the effective date of the final rules to November 16, 1996, so that the Board will have sufficient time to consider the issues raised in the petitions of Mr. Szabo and the NITL. The Board intends to act on those petitions by November 16, 1996.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan.

#### APPENDIX

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the effective date of the final rules published at 61 Fed. Reg. 52,710 (1996) is delayed until November 16, 1996.