**FOR RELEASE** 

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## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MONITORING RAIL SERVICE IMPACTS OF HURRICANE LAURA

The Surface Transportation Board announced today that it will be actively monitoring any rail service disruptions caused by Hurricane Laura. The National Hurricane Center forecasts Laura to be a major hurricane making landfall along the Gulf of Mexico coast near the Texas-Louisiana border tonight or early Thursday.

The Board is prepared to utilize its emergency service authorities pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 11123 if a "failure of traffic movement exists which creates an emergency situation of such magnitude as to have substantial adverse effects on shippers, or on rail service in a region of the United States."

Rail carriers, shippers and other stakeholders experiencing rail service disruptions that create an emergency situation are asked to contact the Board's Rail Customer and Public Assistance office. To request assistance, interested persons may email <a href="RCPA@stb.gov">RCPA@stb.gov</a> or call (202) 245-0238 or (866) 254-1792.

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