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**U.S. Surface Transportation Board**

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# Surface Transportation Board

- Successor agency to the I.C.C.
- Primarily responsible for residual economic regulation of railroad rates and practices
- Mergers, abandonments, new construction
- Much traffic is exempt from STB jurisdiction
- Ancillary motor carrier, water and pipeline regulation





# Surface Transportation Board

- Independent, quasi-judicial body
- Three members appointed for five year terms, currently one vacancy
- Primary mission:
  - *Balance the interests of shippers for reasonable rates with railroads need to earn adequate revenues*



# Major Issues Currently Before the STB

- Examining several major issues in coal rate cases—the SAC process
- Establishing streamlined, less costly procedures for small rate cases
- Examining rail fuel surcharges
- Holding a hearing on “paper barriers”
- Working on revenue adequacy calculation
- No mergers on the horizon; DM&E line

