

## **Voting Conference Statement**

**Statement of Dr. William F. Huneke  
Chief, Section of Economics  
STB Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration,**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO D/B/A XCEL ENERGY  
v.  
THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY**

**STB Docket No. 42057**

Good morning Chairman Nober, Vice-Chairman Mulvey, and Commissioner Buttrey.

The draft decision submitted for your consideration makes technical corrections to the June 2004 Board decision. Both parties have filed petitions to correct technical errors and petitions for reconsideration. This decision corrects the technical errors identified by the parties. The pending motions for reconsideration will be addressed in a subsequent decision.

In complex rate cases such as this, parties are encouraged to bring computational or technical errors to the Board's attention. In recent SAC cases, the parties have uncovered errors in the spreadsheets that had been provided by the parties and relied upon by the Board, as well as technical mistakes made by the Board itself in its calculations. The Board is committed to promptly correcting any such technical errors. Here, the technical corrections pointed out by the parties reduce SARR revenue by less than 2 per cent, increase operating expenses by less than 5 per cent, and reduce construction costs by less than 3 per cent. The effect of these corrections is that the maximum rate in steel cars increases by 6 per cent, and the rate in aluminum cars increases by 5 per cent.

This decision also gives guidance for future cases. Petitions to correct technical and computational errors should be filed within 20 days of the Board's decision. In addition, to ensure that this process is limited to technical corrections and does not become an avenue for addressing substantive issues, this decision also requires that petitions to correct technical errors should be submitted by the parties jointly. A petition should include all of the information needed to correct the error(s) identified but a petition need not be lengthy.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you have on the draft decision.