# **Utility Update**

Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

April 17, 2024

## Utility Perspective

- Inventory Updates
- Rail Metrics
- On Time Performance Survey
- Key Takeaways / Asks

## **Inventory Updates**

- Stockpiles levels remain healthy due to:
  - Mild winter weather
  - Low gas prices
  - Consistent railroad service



#### Distribution of plants by days of full-load burn - Total utilities





Source: Energy Ventures Analysis, coal stockpile report February 2024

## **Rail Metrics**

- Consolidated velocity and trains holding data is no longer available after December 2023 due to expiration of STB EP 770 rail service reporting requirements
- Continued reporting of the data by the Class 1's would be helpful as it provide an overall view of train holding data and velocity

#### US Network Velocity and Trains Holding for Crews and Power



Figure 1: US System Velocity (higher is better) and Trains per Day Holding for Power and Crews (lower is better)

Source: UP, BNSF, CSX, NS, CN-US, CPKC-US, and Loop Capital. Trains holding numbers are summations of the six railroad's totals while network velocity is a daily train starts-weighted average. For example, if railroad A does 15.1% of the total train starts in a given week its velocity is weighted 15.1%. CSX train starts are adjusted to be comparable with peers.

## **Rail Metrics**

- This chart shows velocity and terminal dwell for Class I RRs only as a comparison to recession averages
- It continues to be available and is helpful with predicting Railroad performance ٠

#### The State of the Rails

#### Running well/fast: CSX.

Running OK/normal: Canadian National, BNSF, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific.

Running poorly/slow: Canadian Pacific KC.



Source: Company reports and Loop Capital Markets estimates. L3M = Last 3 Months (last 13 weeks trailing average).

Railroad is turning assets within 10% of its post-recession average

Railroad is turning assets >10% faster than its post-recession average

Railroad is turning assets >10% slower than its post-recession average

#### Loop Capital Feb 23, 2024 Industry Update

Post-recession defined as Q1 2010 through the present.

#### How does the chart work?

e.g. Velocity 10% better than its post-recession average + dwell 10% better than its post-recession average = 20%. Velocity 10% worse + Dwell 10% worse = -20%.

Velocity 10% better + Dwell 10% worse = 0%.



## NCTA/FRCA/NRECA On Time Performance Survey

- NCTA/FRCA/NRECA: OTP Survey Data Collected from Utility members since Aug 2019 to December 2023 per 6-month periods
- 18 Plants Reported Shipper Perspective Railroad Performance Data in latest survey for the period July 2023-December 2023 and some of the highlights are as follows:
  - 50% reported their company experienced improving rail service in the second half of 2023.
  - 20% said the service was about the same as usual
  - > 30% said service was better than usual
  - 0% reported rail service worse than in the past 2 years

### On Time Performance Survey

#### How Have Rail Service Issues Impacted Utility Coal Transportation



	Rail Service said Yes, RR service issues impacted Company coal transportation	Reported Rail Service worse than previous 2 years	Reported About the same as usual	Rail service improving and exptected to continue to improve	Better than usual	Yes, Company had to modify operations due to rail service issues
July 2021-Dec 2021	92%	60%	0%	0%	0%	64%
Jan 2022-June 2022	100%	87%	7%	7%	0%	100%
July 2022-Dec 2022	100%	88%	6%	6%	0%	100%
Jan 2023-June 2023	60%	0%	35%	41%	24%	60%
July 2023-Dec 2023	70%	0%	20%	50%	30%	10%

■ July 2021-Dec 2021 ■ Jan 2022-June 2022 ■ July 20

July 2022-Dec 2022 Jan 2023-June 2023

July 2023-Dec 2023

### On Time Performance Survey

### What Kind of Railroad Service Issues Have You Experienced (check all that apply)?



July 2021-Dec 2021

■ Jan 2022-June 2022 ■ July 202

July 2022-Dec 2022

Jan 2023-June 2023 🛛 🗖

July 2023-Dec 2023

### Key Takeaways and Asks

- Utility forecasting for coal deliveries continues to be challenging for Utilities, Producers and Rail Carriers due to volatile market conditions
- The significant decrease in natural gas prices has curbed coal demand, offsetting the need for coal conservation at many utilities. Utility stockpiles have improved.
- Rail service has improved, but many utilities complain of inconsistencies in rail cycle times making it difficult to plan.
- Locomotive and crew availability continue to be a challenge at some locations despite the lower volumes the rail carriers are handling.

#### Asks:

- Updates on Railroad crew workforce/hiring and preparedness
- Continued accountability and reporting service metrics from RRs

# Questions / Discussion