

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

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Public Record

Docket No. EP 711 (Sub-No. 1)

RECIPROCAL SWITCHING

**Summary of Ex Parte Meeting Between the American Short Line and Regional Railroad
Association and Surface Transportation Board Member Karen Hedlund**

April 21, 2022

ASLRRA Attendees: Chuck Baker, President; Sarah Yurasko, Senior Vice President Law & General Counsel; Michael Ogborn, Senior Advisor

STB Attendees: Karen Hedlund, Member; Charles Vance, Attorney-Advisor

ASLRRA thanked Member Hedlund for her time and the opportunity to meet.

ASLRRA summarized the points made in its April 4, 2022 supplemental comments, which were in response to the line of questioning from Chairman Oberman and Member Fuchs during the March 15-16 hearings regarding how much overall freight rail network traffic that would otherwise be subject to the rule would be excluded from reciprocal switching if a reciprocal switching rule were to be issued that excluded short line traffic, with the addition of the clarifying wording that ASLRRA has suggested.

ASLRRA analyzed data and determined that a little over ten percent of freight rail traffic that would otherwise be subject to the rule would be excluded if the Board determines to promulgate the proposed reciprocal switching rule with short line traffic excluded.

Member Hedlund asked if the proposed rule would be more beneficial for shippers if traffic currently moving on short line railroads was still excluded as originally proposed but short lines were included as a possible new competing railroad. ASLRRA responded that it understands that from some shipper comments and shipper ex parte meeting summaries that shippers support this type of arrangement. While this opportunity would most likely only be available in a small number of instances and is not something that the ASLRRA has actively requested, ASLRRA acknowledges that in some small number of cases such an arrangement could perhaps provide another viable option for a shipper.

ASLRRA thanked Member Hedlund and her staff for their hard work on this complex issue, and offered to arrange a field trip to see a short line railroad in Colorado.