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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

September 8, 2023

Ms. Cynthia Brown, Chief
Section of Administration Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 8, 2023
Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. NOR 42178, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC – Ex Parte Petition for Emergency Service Order

Dear Ms. Brown,

BNSF respectfully submits the attached data for the week ending September 6, 2023 in accordance with the Board's June 23, 2023 decision in the above-referenced proceeding.

BNSF provides the following information to the Board related to BNSF's service.

Reporting Period

As indicated in previous reports, BNSF defines a week as running from each Thursday to Wednesday of the following week. For this report, the backward-looking data includes traffic moving between Thursday, August 31, 2023, and Wednesday, September 6, 2023 and the forward-looking data includes traffic expected to move between Thursday, September 7, 2023, and Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

Factors Impacting Capacity and Cycle Times

On August 29, 2023, Westshore experienced an outage of unloading equipment that has doubled the amount of time it takes to unload a train. At this time, Westshore has not provided an estimate as to when the unloading equipment will be repaired and brought back online. Last week BNSF also reported that Westshore began receiving two additional foreign trains per day due to an outage at another export terminal in the area. BNSF initially understood that the other export terminal was expected to return to full operations the middle of this week. As of the date of this report, however, the outage at the other export terminal has not been resolved and Westshore is still receiving two additional foreign trains per day.

Increased foreign train traffic at Westshore along with the outage of Westshore's unloading equipment have continued to create congestion at the terminal and reduced BNSF's available unloading slots going into Westshore. As discussed previously, unloading delays at Westshore can have significant impacts on BNSF's available crew base. BNSF works closely with Westshore to understand any operational issues as

they arise that impact available loading slots for BNSF. BNSF uses that information to ensure staffing levels are sufficient to meet anticipated traffic volumes and to minimize impacts on BNSF's customers.

Last week BNSF projected seven (7) NTEC export coal trains leaving Spring Creek Mine between August 31, 2023 and September 6, 2023; BNSF's actual traffic level for this period was six (6) NTEC export coal trains.

Efforts to Hire Additional Crews

As previously reported, BNSF continues to aggressively seek to add new employees in the Pacific Northwest and to incentivize relocation of employees from other parts of its network. BNSF has five (5) employees temporarily relocated to Everett, Washington. At the time of this report, BNSF anticipates that an additional four (4) engineers will graduate from Engineer Training in September 2023. BNSF has addressed new Canadian hours of service restrictions in its bi-weekly updates on crews. BNSF continues to review and adjust our hiring plan to ensure we have sufficient available crews to move traffic into Canada.

Efforts to Acquire Additional Trainsets

BNSF continues to monitor the number of trainsets in service to Westshore Terminal and evaluate whether the acquisition of new trainsets is necessary given service levels to NTEC and BNSF's other export customers and demand profiles. While newly acquired trainsets have not been added to BNSF's coal service, NTEC's average daily trainset usage for export coal has increased over the last several months through the addition of existing BNSF trainsets to the export coal lane. As both NTEC and BNSF noted in last week's reports, BNSF moved twenty-nine (29) export coal trains for NTEC in August. BNSF was able to move twenty-nine (29) trains without either party acquiring additional trainsets.

BNSF also continues to monitor the price of export coal and its impact on market demand for coal moving to Westshore Terminals for export. BNSF remains in close communication with our export customers in light of the changing export market conditions to understand forward looking demand and ensure BNSF has the resources required to meet that demand.

Sincerely,



Jill Rugema
General Attorney

Attachment

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on September 8, 2023, I served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding.



Jill Rugema