



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

307114

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 13, 2023
Part of
Public Record

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Troy Carter
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Westerman and Carter,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Lake Providence Port Commission—Feeder Line Application— Line of Delta Southern Railroad Located in East Carroll and Madison Parishes, Louisiana, Docket No. FD 36447. The Board appreciates hearing your views on the proposed line acquisition, and the potential impacts on regions in Arkansas and Louisiana.

As you noted in your letter, there have been numerous substantive submissions in this docket since 2020, including Lake Providence Port Commission's (LPPC) supplemental feeder line application, and subsequent responses. On February 2, 2023, the Board issued a decision waiving the 30-day deadline at 49 C.F.R. § 1151.2(b) for reaching a decision on the completeness of LPPC's amended application. The Board explained that Delta Southern Railroad's (DSR) motion to reject the application and LPPC's response raised substantive questions about what is necessary to show that a feeder line application is complete under 49 C.F.R. § 1151.2(b)(1). For that reason, the Board found good cause to waive the 30-day deadline.

The Board has been diligently assessing whether LPPC's amended application is complete, and I expect the Board to issue a decision addressing this in the near term. While the Board has done significant work on other matters, that has not impacted the thoroughness or timeliness of our review of the amended application. Because this case is pending, I cannot comment further, however, please be assured that the Board will fully consider all public comments and submissions in this proceeding.

A copy of your letter has been placed in the public docket. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ms. Janie Sheng, Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Oberman
Chairman