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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

September 29, 2023

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

**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 27, 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, September 21, 2023, and Wednesday, September 27, 2023 and the forward-looking data includes traffic expected to move between Thursday, September 28, 2023, and Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

Factors Impacting Capacity and Cycle Times

As BNSF has reported over the last few weeks, on August 29, 2023, Westshore experienced an outage of unloading equipment that increased the amount of time it takes to unload a train. BNSF has learned that the outage was resolved as of September 26, 2023. Nevertheless, the nearly month-long outage of unloading equipment has created congestion and reduced BNSF's available unloading slots going into Westshore throughout the month of September. BNSF continues to navigate the impacts of the unloading delays at Westshore on BNSF's available crew base and resulting increased cycle times.

BNSF has previously noted that it works closely with Westshore to understand any operational issues that impact available loading slots for BNSF as they arise. BNSF uses that information to ensure staffing levels are sufficient to meet anticipated traffic volumes and to minimize impacts on BNSF's customers. BNSF is also in regular communication with NTEC about any operational issues at Westshore that may

impact BNSF's ability to deliver export coal so that NTEC can work with Westshore to minimize impacts on NTEC's traffic moving into Westshore.

Over the last several weeks, the Montana Rail Link ("MRL") has experienced short-term, seasonal crew shortages that have impacted BNSF's ability to move export coal traffic and resulted in increased cycle times. Both BNSF loaded and empty coal trains move over the MRL; MRL crews operate these trains while they are on the MRL. When MRL has crew shortages, it impacts the ability of MRL to move BNSF trains.

Due to anticipated impacts of MRL crew shortages and the equipment outage at Westshore on BNSF's ability to move export coal trains, BNSF projected five (5) NTEC export coal trains leaving Spring Creek mine between September 21, 2023 and September 27, 2023. In an attempt to maintain fluidity of BNSF export coal traffic, BNSF began rerouting non-export coal traffic off of the MRL late last week to free up MRL crews to move export coal trains. BNSF also was able to divert several trainsets from domestic service to export service in the last week on a short-term basis due to outages at domestic facilities, which helped reduce impacts of the MRL crew shortages and Westshore equipment issues. Because of these efforts, BNSF was able to move more trains than anticipated in the last week. BNSF's actual traffic level for September 21, 2023 and September 27, 2023 was eight (8) NTEC export coal trains.

While BNSF was able to drive higher than anticipated volume in the last reporting week, BNSF is still seeing significant impacts on cycle times for the export coal traffic in the month of September as the result of factors outside of BNSF's control that BNSF has addressed in its weekly filings. Both BNSF and NTEC have noted that BNSF moved twenty-nine (29) trains for NTEC in August. BNSF planned to move twenty-nine (29) trains for NTEC in September as well, but given the increased cycle times this month, BNSF now anticipates that the final number of trains shipped for NTEC in September may be three to four trains less than initially planned.

Sincerely,



Jill Rugema
General Attorney

Attachment

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

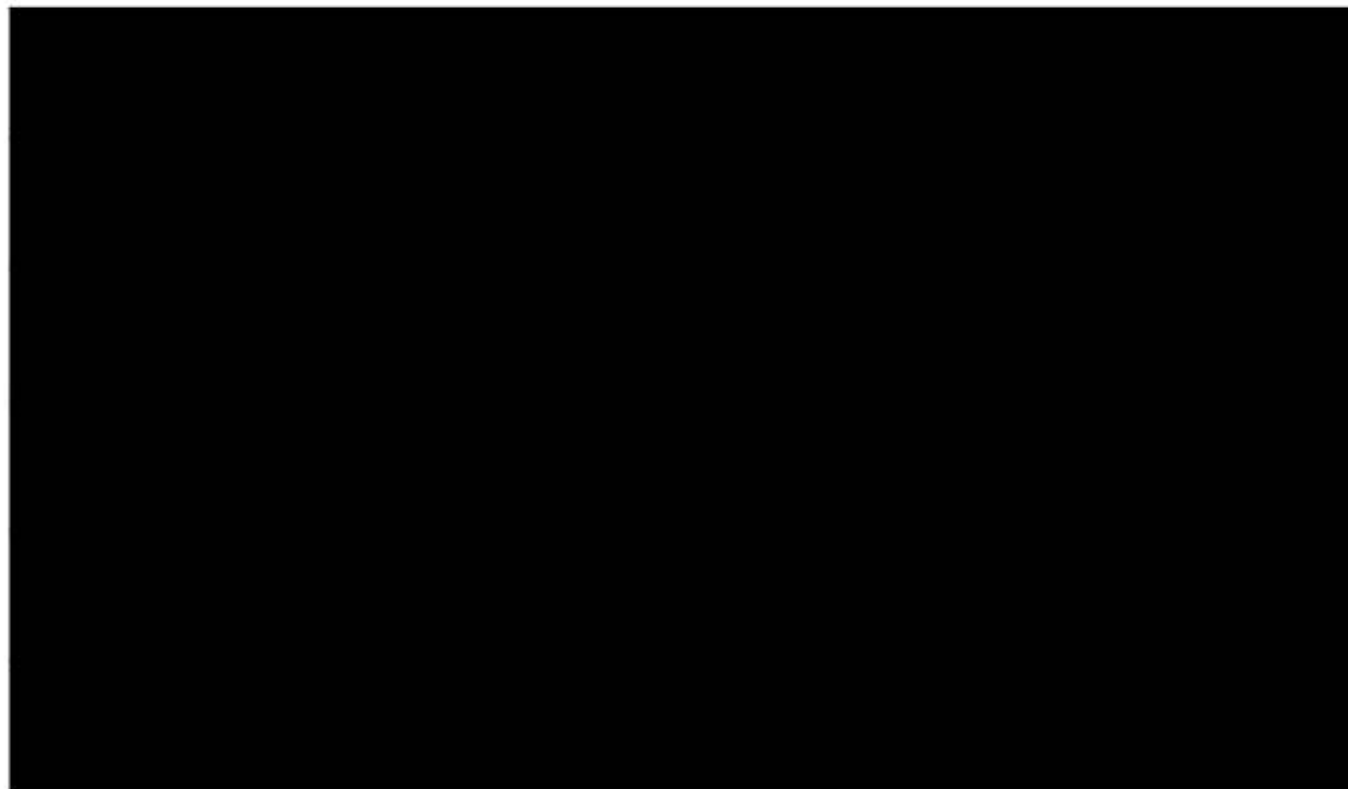
I certify that on September 29, 2023, I served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding.



Jill Rugema

NTEC *Ex Parte* Pet. For Emergency Svc. Order (NOR 42178)

Reporting Period: 9/21/2023 through 9/27/2023



REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

Other NTEC Traffic Originating at Spring Creek Mine September 21, 2023 through September 27, 2023						
STCC_NUMBER	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	SHPR_633	WB_DT	TRAIN_ID	TONS

REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

Daily Trainsets Deployed from Spring Creek Mine September 21, 2023 through September 27, 2023					
Date	# of Trainsets Deployed				