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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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October 20, 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
October 20, 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 October 18, 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, October 12, 2023, and Wednesday, October 18, 2023, and the forward-looking data includes traffic expected to move between Thursday, October 19, 2023, and Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

Factors Impacting Capacity and Cycle Times

Last week BNSF noted that Westshore's unloading equipment damaged 165 railcars used in export service before Westshore took it out of service from August 29, 2023, to September 26, 2023. BNSF continues to remove the damaged railcars from service for repair, reducing the average number of railcars per train in export service and, in turn, the amount of export coal BNSF is able to move to Westshore. BNSF is moving available railcars into export service to replace the damaged railcars and reduce the impact of the required repairs. BNSF will continue to look for opportunities to mitigate reduced train length until it is able to repair the railcars and put them back into service.

Last week BNSF projected six (6) NTEC export coal trains leaving Spring Creek Mine between October 12, 2023 and October 18, 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. As previously reported, four (4) engineers graduated from Engineer Training in September 2023 and have joined the Everett crew base. 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 previous weeks' reports, BNSF moved twenty-nine (29) export coal trains for NTEC in August and twenty-six (26) export coal trains for NTEC in September 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 October 20, 2023, I served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding.



Jill Rugema