

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

Office of Economics

December 5, 2023

Dr. Raymond A. Atkins
Sidley Austin LLP
1501 K Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20005

307594

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 6, 2023
Part of
Public Record

Re: Waybill Request WB23-67 & EP 704 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Dr. Atkins:

The Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) has received your extension request under 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(b)(4) dated November 27, 2023 for permission to access the confidential Carload Waybill Sample (CCWS) with unmasked revenues for 1987-2019 in connection with EP 704 (Sub-No.1), Review of Commodity, Boxcar, and TOFC/COFC Exemptions, on behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS). You state that you are continuing to evaluate issues relevant to this proceeding.

Your extension is granted for continued access to the data in connection with the above proceedings. ***This approval becomes effective when signed agreements from the individuals listed below are received by the STB:***

- a) *Dr. Raymond A. Atkins – Sidley Austin LLP*
- b) *Ms. Allison C. Davis – Sidley Austin LLP*
- c) *Mr. Mark Israel – Compass Lexecon LLC*
- d) *Ms. Catherine Barron – Compass Lexecon LLC*
- e) *Mr. Georgi Giozov – Compass Lexecon LLC*
- f) *Mr. Michael Matelis– Compass Lexecon LLC*

The expiration date for this agreement is December 31, 2024. Unless you seek and obtain a renewal from the STB, this agreement upon expiration obligates you to return or destroy all copies of the data as described in item 7 of the agreement.

Several aspects of the CCWS limit the conclusions that may be drawn from analysis of the CCWS: 1) the CCWS is a sample, and 2) the CCWS is based on terminating shipments from relatively large carriers. Only those railroads with more than 4,500 annual terminating carloads are included in the sample. The limited sampling of small railroads may have a substantial effect on studies covering areas served predominately by non-sampled railroads. For additional information on the CCWS, see *Reference Guide* @ <https://www.stb.gov/reports-data/waybill/> on the Board's website.

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9. The CCWS contains confidential shipper and railroad data. As a result, the CCWS is commercially sensitive and has the potential to cause competitive harm to shippers and railroads if disclosed. Therefore, the following agreement must be signed, and a copy of the signature pages returned to the STB, before any waybill data can be used.

Your signature acknowledges your agreement to comply with the following:

1. You will use the CCWS data released to you solely for purposes of the proceedings identified above. Such purposes include any judicial review arising from the proceedings.
2. Absent permission from the STB, you shall make the information contained in the CCWS (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) available only to the individuals identified above. The STB may approve access for additional individuals for purposes of the proceeding. In general, such individuals must be outside counsel in the proceedings, transportation practitioners, and those individuals working with or assisting such counsel or practitioners who are not regular employees of the party represented, who have a need to know, review, or handle the CCWS for purposes of the proceedings, including testifying and consulting experts. Each such additional individual must review and sign this agreement and return a copy of the signature page to the STB.
3. Pleadings and evidence filed with the Board in the proceedings may contain CCWS data (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS). Unless data in the pleadings and evidence are aggregated to the level of at least three shippers and will prevent the identification of an individual railroad, the pleadings and evidence must be filed with the Board under confidential filing procedures (both in e-filing and paper submissions). Such pleadings and evidence should be appropriately marked to indicate that they contain confidential Waybill data and, if submitted in paper or on physical media, be in a package clearly marked on the outside "Highly Confidential Material: Contains Waybill Data." Such pleadings will not be posted in the publicly available docket. A public version of the pleading and evidence that redacts unaggregated CCWS data should also be filed for posting in the public docket.
4. Pleadings and evidence (and underlying workpapers) containing CCWS data (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) may be disclosed only to outside counsel or other independent representatives for other parties to the proceedings who have signed an agreement with the Board that grants them access to the underlying CCWS data.

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5. CCWS data may be disclosed to the reviewing court in briefs filed or oral argument made in connection with judicial review arising from the proceedings, but the party making such disclosure must take adequate steps to maintain the confidentiality of the data by filing pleadings under seal and seeking confidential treatment of the data at oral argument (and in any transcripts). Counsel who wish to access CCWS data for purposes of participating in judicial review arising from the proceedings must have signed an agreement with the Board that grants access to the data, and may be added pursuant to paragraph 2 above.
6. Except as provided in paragraph 4 above, you will refer any requests for CCWS data in your possession (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) to the STB for processing and will inform the requesting party of such referral to the STB. If you are compelled by law or order of a governmental or judicial body to release CCWS data, you shall notify the Board in writing within three days of any determination that CCWS data must be released, and in no event later than five days before the CCWS data is scheduled to be released.
7. In order to retain access to the CCWS beyond the expiration date specified above, you must submit a written request for an annual extension of the agreement no later than thirty days prior to the expiration date and the renewal request must be approved by the Office of Economics. **If an annual agreement is not signed and approved, you must certify by no later than the expiration date that all CCWS data (including all work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) obtained under this agreement has been destroyed or returned to the STB.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, outside counsel (but not outside consultants or transportation practitioners) for each party may retain file copies of all pleadings and evidence filed with the Board and file copies of all work product. The non-disclosure requirements of this agreement shall continue to apply to such file copies for as long as they are retained.
8. Failure to request an extension (if necessary), or destroy or return CCWS data when required, may prevent any future release of CCWS data to you. Violations of this agreement may subject you to sanctions by the Board.

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After all parties have signed and returned this agreement, and the payment has been made, the extension is granted.

Sincerely,

Francis X. O'Connor

Francis O'Connor
Acting Director
Office of Economics

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

I have read and understand the conditions for release of the CCWS data. I agree to comply fully with these conditions and the provisions of this confidentiality agreement. No later than thirty days before the agreement expires, I will request an extension of this agreement, if necessary. If no extension is requested, I will return or destroy all CCWS data and certify that I have done so. I have the authority to sign this agreement.

By: Raymond A. Atkins

/s/ Raymond A. Atkins

Signature

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

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By: Allison C. Davis

/s/ Allison C. Davis
Signature

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

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By: Mark Israel

/s/ Mark Israel

Signature

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

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By: Catherine Barron

/s/ Catherine Barron

Signature

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

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By: Georgi Giozov

/s/ Georgi Giozov

Signature

Waybill Agreement WB23-67

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By: Michael Matelis

/s/ Michael Matelis

Signature



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November 27, 2023

By Email

Francis O'Connor
Acting Director, Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket No. EP 704 (Sub-No. 1), WB22-68 Access Renewal

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

I write on behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NS") in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(b)(4), I am respectfully requesting an extension of access to the confidential Carload Waybill Sample ("CCWS") in WB22-68.

Access to the unmasked 1987–2019 CCWSs for all commodities was approved in WB20-56, extended in WB21-85 until December 31, 2022, and extended again in WB22-68 until December 31, 2023.

The purpose of this request is to allow NS's outside counsel and its consultants to continue to evaluate relevant issues as the proceeding is still pending. Access is being requested for the following outside counsel and consultants: Mark Israel, Catherine Barron, Michael Matelis, Georgi Giozov, Jiaxuan Nie, and Siyi Chen of Compass Lexecon, LLC, as well as my colleague, Allison C. Davis, and me.

If additional outside counsel or consultants require access, we will amend our request to add such individuals.

NS's counsel and consultants will scrupulously respect the confidentiality and commercially sensitive nature of the CCWS data and abide by the conditions placed on its use by the Board and by the terms of 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9.

SIDLEY

WB22-68 Access Renewal

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Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 736-8889 if you have any questions regarding this request.

Best regards,

/s/ Raymond A. Atkins

Raymond A. Atkins

From: [Davis, Allison C.](#)
To: [Dusenberry, Alexander](#)
Cc: [Atkins, Raymond](#)
Subject: RE: WB23-67 EP704_1 Sidney-NS Extension Approval
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:02:34 AM

Alex – Our apologies, but Jiaxuan Nie and Siyi Chen no longer require access. Would you like us to submit a revised request with their names removed? Alternatively, we can go ahead and send you the confidentiality agreements for just the 6 individuals that are needed. Please let us know your preference.

Thanks,
Allison

ALLISON C. DAVIS
Counsel

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