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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

FINANCE DOCKET NO. 36784

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 6, 2024
Part of
Public Record

**VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY – ACQUISITION AND OPERATION OF
CERTAIN ASSETS OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
IN FAIRFAX AND PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES, AND THE CITIES OF MANASSAS
PARK, MANASSAS AND ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

 GRANTED Office of Proceedings	DECISION ID NO.: <u>52185</u>
	DECIDED DATE: <u>6/20/2024</u>
	SERVED DATE: <u>6/20/2024</u>
	APPROVED: <u><i>masdair</i></u> Director
	☐ _____

Kevin M. Sheys
Carolyn G. Kraska
Law Office of Kevin M. Sheys LLC
42 Brush Hill Road
Sherborn, MA 01770
(240) 463-4663

S. Michael Westermann
General Counsel
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
919 E. Main Street, Suite 2400
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 241-5881

Counsel for Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Dated: June 6, 2024

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**VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY – ACQUISITION AND OPERATION OF
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Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (“VPRA”), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, hereby requests that the Surface Transportation Board (“STB” or “Board”) issue a protective order in the above-referenced proceeding pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1104.14(b).

VPRA is filing concurrently herewith a Petition for Exemption and a Motion to Dismiss related to its acquisition of certain real property, track, other improvements and a passenger rail service easement from Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“Norfolk Southern”).

Entry of the protective order will facilitate the submission under seal of a draft Comprehensive Rail Agreement governing the proposed transaction. The draft Comprehensive Rail Agreement (a redacted version of which is filed with the Petition for Exemption in the public docket) contains confidential or proprietary business information, the public disclosure of which could cause harm or other injury to VPRA or Norfolk Southern. Public disclosure of the draft Comprehensive Rail Agreement is not necessary for the consideration or disposition of the Petition for Exemption and the Motion to Dismiss.

VPRA also requests that the protective order apply to any other documents filed in the

docket by VPRA or any other entities or persons. Attached as an Appendix to this Motion is a proposed protective order for use in this proceeding. The proposed order follows the substance and format of protective orders previously issued by the Board.¹

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Kevin M. Sheys</u>	
Kevin M. Sheys	S. Michael Westermann
Carolyn G. Kraska	General Counsel
Law Office of Kevin M. Sheys LLC	Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
42 Brush Hill Road	919 E. Main Street, Suite 2400
Sherborn, MA 01770	Richmond, VA 23219
(240) 463-4663	(804) 241-5881

Counsel for Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Dated: June 6, 2024

¹ *E.g. CSX Transp., Inc.—Acquisition & Operation—Rail Line of Meridian & Bigbee R.R.*, Docket No. FD 36727 (STB served Oct. 11, 2023); *Soo Line Corp.—Control—Cent. Me. & Quebec Ry. US Inc.*, Docket No. FD 36368 (STB served Dec. 3, 2019); *Canadian Nat’l Ry. & Grand Trunk Corp.—Control—EJ&E W. Co.*, Docket No. FD 35087 (STB served Oct. 22, 2007).

APPENDIX

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. For purposes of this Protective Order:

(a) “Confidential Documents” means documents and other tangible materials containing or reflecting Confidential Information.

(b) “Confidential Information” means traffic data (including but not limited to waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, and any documents or computer tapes containing data derived from waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, or other data bases, and cost work papers); confidential financial and cost data; the identification of shippers and receivers in conjunction with shipper-specific or other traffic data; the confidential terms of contracts with shippers or carriers; divisions of rates, trackage rights compensation levels and other compensation between carriers; and other confidential or proprietary business or personal information.

(c) “Designated Material” means any documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with paragraphs 2 or 3 of this Protective Order, and any Confidential Information contained in such materials.

(d) “Proceedings” means those before the Surface Transportation Board (“Board”) concerning the Petition for Exemption filed in Docket No. FD 36784 and any related proceedings before the Board, and any judicial review proceedings arising from Docket No. FD 36784 or from any related proceedings before the Board.

2. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed or served in these Proceedings contains Confidential Information or consists of Confidential Documents, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information and Confidential Documents as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be handled as provided for hereinafter.

3. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed or served in these Proceedings contains shipper-specific rate or cost data; division of rates, trackage rights compensation levels, other compensations between carriers; marketing or financial materials; or other competitively sensitive or proprietary information, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents so designated or stamped shall be handled as provided hereinafter.

4. Information and documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” may not be disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, or to any person or entity except to an employee, counsel, consultant, or agent of a party to these Proceedings, or an employee of such counsel, consultant, or agent, who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit A to this Order and has provided a copy of the confidentiality undertaking to counsel for VPRA.

5. Information and documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” may not be disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, to any employee of a party to these Proceedings, or to any other person or entity except to an outside counsel or outside consultant to a party to these Proceedings, or to an employee of such outside counsel or outside consultant, who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit B to this Order and has provided a copy of the confidentiality undertaking to counsel for VPRA.

6. Any party to these Proceedings may challenge the designation by any other party of information or documents as “CONFIDENTIAL” or as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” by filing a motion with the Board or with an administrative law judge or other officer to whom authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board to adjudicate such challenge(s).

7. Designated Material may not be used for any purposes, including without limitation any business, commercial or competitive purposes, other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in Docket No. FD 36784, any related proceedings before the Board, or any judicial review proceedings in connection with Docket No. FD 36784 or with any related proceedings.

8. Any party who receives Designated Material in the course of these Proceedings shall destroy such materials and any notes or documents reflecting such materials (other than file copies of pleadings or other documents filed with the Board and retained by outside counsel for a party to these Proceedings) at the earlier of (1) such time as the party receiving the materials withdraws from these Proceedings, or (2) the completion of these Proceedings, including any petitions for reconsideration, appeals, or remands.

9. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to the Board, unless the pleading or other document is submitted under seal, in a package clearly marked on the outside as "Confidential Materials Subject to Protective Order." See 49 C.F.R. § 1104.14. All pleadings and other documents so submitted shall be kept confidential by the Board and shall not be placed in the public docket in these Proceedings except by order of the Board or of an administrative law judge or other officer in the exercise of authority lawfully delegated by the Board.

10. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to any forum other than this Board in these Proceedings unless: (1) the pleading or other document is submitted under seal in accordance with a protective order that requires the pleading or other document to be kept confidential by that tribunal and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, or (2) the pleading or other document is submitted in a sealed package clearly marked, "Confidential Materials Subject to Request for Protective Order," and is accompanied by a motion to that tribunal requesting issuance of a protective order that would require the pleading or other document be kept confidential and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, and requesting that if the motion for protective order is not issued by that tribunal, the pleading or other document be returned to the filing party.

11. No party may present or otherwise use any Designated Material at a Board hearing in these Proceedings, unless that party has previously submitted, under seal, all proposed exhibits and other documents containing or reflecting such Designated Material to the Board, or to an administrative law judge or other officer to whom relevant authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board, and has accompanied such submission with a written request that the Board, administrative law judge or other officer: (a) restrict attendance at the hearing during any discussion of such Designated Material, and (b) restrict access to any portion of the record or briefs reflecting discussion of such Designated Material in accordance with this Protective Order.

12. If any party intends to use any Designated Material in the course of any deposition in these Proceedings, that party shall so advise counsel for the party producing the Designated Material, counsel for the deponent, and all other counsel attending the deposition. Attendance at any portion of the deposition at which any Designated Material is used or discussed shall be restricted to persons who may review that material under the terms of this Protective Order. All portions of deposition transcripts or exhibits that consist of, refer to, or otherwise disclose Designated Material shall be filed under seal and be otherwise handled as provided under the terms of this Protective Order.

13. To the extent that materials reflecting Confidential Information are produced by a party in these Proceedings, and are held and/or used by the receiving person in compliance with the terms of this Protective Order, such production, disclosure, holding, and use of the materials and of the data that the materials contain are deemed essential for the disposition of this and any related proceedings and will not be deemed a violation of 49 U.S.C. § 11904 or of any other relevant provision of the ICC Termination Act of 1995.

14. All parties must file simultaneously a public version of any Highly Confidential or Confidential submission filed with the Board whether the submission is designated as Highly Confidential Version or Confidential Version. When filing a Highly Confidential Version, the filing party does not need to file a Confidential Version with the Board, but must make available a Confidential Version reviewable by any other party's in-house counsel upon request. In lieu of preparing a Confidential Version, the filing party may make available to outside counsel for any other party a list of all "highly confidential" information that must be redacted from the Highly Confidential Version prior to review by that party's in-house personnel.

15. All parties must comply with all of the provisions of this Protective Order unless the Board or an administrative law judge or other officer exercising authority lawfully delegated by the Board determines that good cause has been shown warranting suspension of any of the provisions herein.

16. Nothing in this Protective Order restricts the right of any party to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Information originated by that party, or to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Documents originated by that party, if such Confidential Information or Confidential Documents do not contain or reflect any Confidential Information originated by any other party.

EXHIBIT A
UNDERTAKING—CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____ have read the Protective Order served on _____, 2024, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in Docket No. FD 36784 and related proceedings, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or to permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in Docket No. FD 36784, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with Docket No. FD 36784 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed Undertakings in the form hereof. At the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting materials designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL,” other than file copies, kept by outside counsel, of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Affiliation: _____

EXHIBIT B
UNDERTAKING—HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____ am outside [counsel] [consultant] for _____, for whom I am acting in this proceeding. I have read the Protective Order served on _____, 2024, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in Docket No. FD 36784 and related proceedings, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or to permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in Docket No. FD 36784, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, or any judicial review proceedings in connection with Docket No. FD 36784 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed Highly Confidential Undertakings in the form hereof.

I also understand and agree, as a condition precedent to my receiving, reviewing, or using copies of any information or documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” that I will take all necessary steps to ensure that said information or documents be kept on a confidential basis by any outside counsel or outside consultants working with me, that under no circumstances will I permit access to said materials or information by employees of my client or its subsidiaries, affiliates, or owners, and that at the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting information or documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” other than file copies, kept by outside counsel, of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that other parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

[This space intentionally left blank]

Name _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Affiliation: Outside [Counsel] [Consultant] for: _____