

Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
Office of Economics

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 24, 2025
Part of
Public Record
June 16, 2025

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

Re: Waybill Request WB25-34 & EP 704 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Mr. Adkins:

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has received your request under 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(b)(4) of June 13, 2025, for permission to access the confidential Carload Waybill Sample (CCWS) with unmasked revenues in connection with EP 704 (Sub-No.1), Review of Commodity, Boxcar, and TOFC/COFC Exemptions, on behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS). Specifically, you requested carload waybill data covering the period 2020 through 2023 (including all records, all fields, and confidential unmasked revenues) for all traffic. Previously, in WB20-56 and extended in WB21-85, WB22-68, WB24-67 and most recently extended in WB25-02 you were granted access to the unmasked CCWS for the period 1987 through 2019 for use in this proceeding.

Based on the explanations and justifications contained in your request I will grant you, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(b)(4), access to carload waybill data covering the period 2020 through 2023 (including all records, all fields, and confidential unmasked revenues) for all traffic. These datasets may be used only for purposes of this proceeding. See 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(b)(4)(v).

This approval becomes effective when signed agreements from the individuals listed below are received by the STB:

- a. Raymond A. Atkins: Sidley Austin LLP*
- b. Allison Davis: Sidley Austin LLP*
- c. Marc Korman: Sidley Austin LLP*
- d. Mark Israel: Econic Partners*
- e. Michael Matelis: Compass Lexecon LLC*
- f. Steven Peterson: Econic Partners*
- g. Catherine Barron: Econic Partners*
- h. Georgi Giozov: Econic Partners*

The expiration date for this agreement is June 30, 2026. Unless you seek and obtain a renewal from the STB, this agreement upon expiration obligates you to return or destroy 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.

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 proceeding identified above. Such purposes include any judicial review arising from that proceeding.
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 this proceeding, 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 proceeding, 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 proceeding 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 proceeding who have signed an agreement with the Board that grants them access to the underlying CCWS data.
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 proceeding, 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 proceeding 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.

Waybill Agreement WB25-34

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.

After all parties have signed and returned this agreement, please contact waybill@stb.gov to make the necessary arrangements to have a copy of the data sent to you. The STB will provide the data by email through file transfer protocol. Prior payment of processing and mailing cost of **\$752** (\$200 processing fee plus \$69 per individual) is required. Payment can be made through the Board's electronic payment system, Pay.gov. Your payment through Pay.gov will generate a unique Pay.gov transaction number, which you will need to provide with your signed agreement. Pay.gov accepts payment through bank accounts, credit cards, debit cards with a MasterCard or Visa logo, and digital wallet. Payment can also be made directly to the Board via check or money order.

Sincerely,

**KRISTEN
MONACO**

Digitally signed by
KRISTEN MONACO
Date: 2025.06.16
07:38:13 -04'00'

Kristen Monaco, PhD
Director
Office of Economics

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


Signature

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By: Allison Davis



Signature

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By: Marc Korman

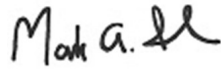


Signature

Waybill Agreement WB25-34

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By: Mark Israel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Israel", written above a horizontal line.

Signature

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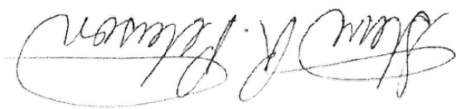
By: Michael Matelis



Signature

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By: Steven Peterson



Signature

Waybill Agreement WB25-34

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By: Catherine Barron

/s/ Catherine Barron

Signature

Waybill Agreement WB25-34

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By: Georgi Giozov

/s/ Georgi Giozov

Signature



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June 13, 2025

By Email

Dr. Kristen Monaco
Director, Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **Docket No. EP 704 (Sub-No. 1), WB 25-02**

Dear Dr. Monaco:

I write on behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NS") in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Board granted continued access to the confidential Carload Waybill Sample ("CCWS") in WB25-02 for NS's outside counsel and consultants for the years 2014-2019.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9(b)(4), I am writing to request additional access. Specifically, access is requested for unmasked 2020-2023 CCWS data. 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. This access is requested for the following individuals:

- Raymond A. Atkins: Sidley Austin LLP
- Allison Davis: Sidley Austin LLP
- Marc Korman: Sidley Austin LLP
- Mark Israel: Econic Partners
- Michael Matelis: Compass Lexecon LLC
- Steven Peterson: Econic Partners
- Catherine Barron: Econic Partners
- Georgi Giozov: Econic Partners

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

SIDLEY

WB25-02

June 13, 2025

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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