

SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ORDER GRANTING K&O’S PETITION FOR ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENA AND
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION

Docket No. FD 36849

KANSAS & OKLAHOMA RAILROAD, LLC. – LEASE AND
OPERATION EXEMPTION WITH INTERCHANGE
COMMITMENT – UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Decided: September 26, 2025

This discovery matter is before the undersigned pursuant to a ruling by the Surface Transportation Board, see Decision (Aug. 8, 2025).

Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, LLC (K&O), a Class III rail carrier, filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 seeking an exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 10902 for after-the-fact authority to renew and amend a lease agreement between K&O and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) governing K&O’s possession and use of approximately 165.98 route miles of UP-owned railroad line in western Kansas (the Lease). The leased lines consist of two segments of rail line, which extend (1) between milepost 523.02 at Geneseo, Kan., and milepost 606.0 at McCracken, Kan., and (2) between milepost 664.5 at Healy, Kan., and milepost 747.5 at Towner, Colo. (the Lines).

On April 16, 2025, Weskan Grain LLC (Weskan) filed a reply in opposition to the petition for exemption, arguing that the interchange commitment is anticompetitive. Weskan contends that the proposed interchange commitment is intended to “preserve UP’s market power and to restrict competition,” (Weskan Opp’n 10), by making it “economically infeasible for K&O” to transport agricultural products originating in Kansas to points west of the CXR interchange at Towner, (*id.* at 1).

On September 25, 2025, K&O filed a Petition for Issuance of a Subpoena, which requests that a subpoena duces tecum be issued to CXR. Further, K&O requests expedited consideration, because the discovery deadline is October 8, 2025, although the deadline for K&O’s filing is not until October 22, 2025; CXR did not voluntarily engage in discovery and will respond with objections; and K&O would be prejudiced. (Pet. at 4-5). K&O proposes expeditiously granting the petition with production on a rolling basis, or alternatively, scheduling a status conference to adjudicate “all outstanding discovery disputes” including the Petition. (Pet. at 5).

I have considered K&O’s requests, and I am issuing the subpoena duces tecum concurrently herewith and expeditiously. It is attached to this order. However, I am not adding

any additional conditions that K&O requested. K&O must request any extension of the discovery deadline from the Board.

For these reasons, the undersigned grants K&O's Petition for Issuance of Subpoena and grants in part K&O's request for expedited consideration.

It is ordered:

1. K&O's Petition for Issuance of Subpoena is granted. K&O's request for expedited consideration is granted in part.

2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Jenifer J. Soulikias, Administrative Law Judge.

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

KANSAS & OKLAHOMA RAILROAD, INC. – LEASE AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION WITH INTERCHANGE COMMITMENT – UNION PACIFIC
RAILROAD COMPANY

DOCKET NO. FD 36849

SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS, INFORMATION, OR OBJECTS
OR TO PERMIT INSPECTION OF PREMISES IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: COLORADO PACIFIC RAILROAD LLC ("CXR")

(Name of person to whom this subpoena is directed)

☒ **Production:** **YOU ARE COMMANDED** to produce at the time, date, and place set forth below the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects, and to permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of the material: SEE ATTACHED DISCOVERY REQUESTS TO COLORADO PACIFIC RAILROAD LLC ("CXR")

Place: Fletcher & Sippel LLC 29 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 800 Chicago, IL 60606	Date and Time: 15 Days from Issuance of this Subpoena
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☐ **Inspection of Premises:** **YOU ARE COMMANDED** to permit entry onto the designated premises, land, or other property possessed or controlled by you at the time, date, and location set forth below, so that the requesting party may inspect, measure, survey, photograph, test, or sample the property or any designated object or operation on it.

Place:	Date and Time:
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The following provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 are attached – Rule 45(c), relating to the place of compliance; Rule 45(d), relating to your protection as a person subject to a subpoena; and Rule 45(e) and (g), relating to your duty to respond to this subpoena and the potential consequences of not doing so.

Date: _____

Administrative Law Judge

The Honorable Jenifer Soulikias

The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the attorney representing (name of party) _____
Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, LLC, who issues or requests this subpoena, are:
Robert A. Wimbish, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606
rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com
(312) 252-1504

Notice to the person who issues or requests this subpoena

If this subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things or the inspection of premises before trial, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party in this case before it is served on the person to whom it is directed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(4).

DOCKET NO. FD 36849

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)

I received this subpoena for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
on *(date)* _____ .

☐ I served the subpoena by delivering a copy to the named person as follows: _____

_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

☐ I returned the subpoena unexecuted because: _____

Unless the subpoena was issued on behalf of the United States, or one of its officers or agents, I have also
tendered to the witness the fees for one day's attendance, and the mileage allowed by law, in the amount of
\$ _____ .

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____ .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____
_____ *Server's signature*

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45 (c), (d), (e), and (g) (Effective 12/1/13)

(c) Place of Compliance.

(1) For a Trial, Hearing, or Deposition. A subpoena may command a person to attend a trial, hearing, or deposition only as follows:

- (A) within 100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person; or
- (B) within the state where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person, if the person
 - (i) is a party or a party's officer; or
 - (ii) is commanded to attend a trial and would not incur substantial expense.

(2) For Other Discovery. A subpoena may command:

- (A) production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things at a place within 100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person; and
- (B) inspection of premises at the premises to be inspected.

(d) Protecting a Person Subject to a Subpoena; Enforcement.

(1) Avoiding Undue Burden or Expense; Sanctions. A party or attorney responsible for issuing and serving a subpoena must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena. The court for the district where compliance is required must enforce this duty and impose an appropriate sanction—which may include lost earnings and reasonable attorney's fees—on a party or attorney who fails to comply.

(2) Command to Produce Materials or Permit Inspection.

(A) *Appearance Not Required.* A person commanded to produce documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things, or to permit the inspection of premises, need not appear in person at the place of production or inspection unless also commanded to appear for a deposition, hearing, or trial.

(B) *Objections.* A person commanded to produce documents or tangible things or to permit inspection may serve on the party or attorney designated in the subpoena a written objection to inspecting, copying, testing, or sampling any or all of the materials or to inspecting the premises—or to producing electronically stored information in the form or forms requested. The objection must be served before the earlier of the time specified for compliance or 14 days after the subpoena is served. If an objection is made, the following rules apply:

- (i) At any time, on notice to the commanded person, the serving party may move the court for the district where compliance is required for an order compelling production or inspection.
- (ii) These acts may be required only as directed in the order, and the order must protect a person who is neither a party nor a party's officer from significant expense resulting from compliance.

(3) Quashing or Modifying a Subpoena.

(A) *When Required.* On timely motion, the court for the district where compliance is required must quash or modify a subpoena that:

- (i) fails to allow a reasonable time to comply;
- (ii) requires a person to comply beyond the geographical limits specified in Rule 45(c);
- (iii) requires disclosure of privileged or other protected matter, if no exception or waiver applies; or
- (iv) subjects a person to undue burden.

(B) *When Permitted.* To protect a person subject to or affected by a subpoena, the court for the district where compliance is required may, on motion, quash or modify the subpoena if it requires:

- (i) disclosing a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information; or

(ii) disclosing an unretained expert's opinion or information that does not describe specific occurrences in dispute and results from the expert's study that was not requested by a party.

(C) *Specifying Conditions as an Alternative.* In the circumstances described in Rule 45(d)(3)(B), the court may, instead of quashing or modifying a subpoena, order appearance or production under specified conditions if the serving party:

- (i) shows a substantial need for the testimony or material that cannot be otherwise met without undue hardship; and
- (ii) ensures that the subpoenaed person will be reasonably compensated.

(e) Duties in Responding to a Subpoena.

(1) Producing Documents or Electronically Stored Information. These procedures apply to producing documents or electronically stored information:

(A) *Documents.* A person responding to a subpoena to produce documents must produce them as they are kept in the ordinary course of business or must organize and label them to correspond to the categories in the demand.

(B) *Form for Producing Electronically Stored Information Not Specified.* If a subpoena does not specify a form for producing electronically stored information, the person responding must produce it in a form or forms in which it is ordinarily maintained or in a reasonably usable form or forms.

(C) *Electronically Stored Information Produced in Only One Form.* The person responding need not produce the same electronically stored information in more than one form.

(D) *Inaccessible Electronically Stored Information.* The person responding need not provide discovery of electronically stored information from sources that the person identifies as not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. On motion to compel discovery or for a protective order, the person responding must show that the information is not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. If that showing is made, the court may nonetheless order discovery from such sources if the requesting party shows good cause, considering the limitations of Rule 26(b)(2)(C). The court may specify conditions for the discovery.

(2) Claiming Privilege or Protection.

(A) *Information Withheld.* A person withholding subpoenaed information under a claim that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial-preparation material must:

- (i) expressly make the claim; and
- (ii) describe the nature of the withheld documents, communications, or tangible things in a manner that, without revealing information itself privileged or protected, will enable the parties to assess the claim.

(B) *Information Produced.* If information produced in response to a subpoena is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material, the person making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party disclosed it before being notified; and may promptly present the information under seal to the court for the district where compliance is required for a determination of the claim. The person who produced the information must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

(g) Contempt.

The court for the district where compliance is required—and also, after a motion is transferred, the issuing court—may hold in contempt a person who, having been served, fails without adequate excuse to obey the subpoena or an order related to it.