

SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 11, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. NOR 42184

DURA-BOND PIPE, L.L.C.

v.

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS RAILWAYS INC.

Docket No. EP 346 (Sub-No. 29)

RAIL GENERAL EXEMPTION AUTHORITY—PETITION OF AAR TO EXEMPT RAIL
TRANSPORTATION OF SELECTED COMMODITY GROUPS

Decided: December 11, 2025

On December 9, 2025, Dura-Bond Pipe, L.L.C. (Dura-Bond), filed a complaint against Cleveland-Cliffs Railways Inc. (Railways), a Class III rail carrier.¹ Dura-Bond states that it receives delivery of steel plates via rail from an Indiana facility within the corporate family of Cliffs, and ships large diameter steel pipes that are produced at Dura-Bond's Steelton, Pa., facility. (Compl. ¶¶ 2, 9.) Dura-Bond states that Railways handles inbound and outbound rail traffic for the Steelton facility via interchange with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR). (*Id.* ¶¶ 3, 22.) Dura-Bond alleges that Railways is engaged in an unreasonable billing practice in violation of 49 U.S.C. § 10702(2), (*see* Compl. ¶¶ 28-38, 54-57), and that Railways has announced plans to cease all rail service at Steelton on January 13, 2026, without seeking prior Board authority as required under 49 U.S.C. §§ 11101(a) and 10903(a)(1), (Compl. ¶¶ 39, 44-53).

Along with the complaint, Dura-Bond filed a motion for a preliminary injunction seeking a Board order requiring Railways to continue providing rail service to Dura-Bond at its Steelton facility during the pendency of the complaint proceeding. (Mot. 1-2.) Finally, in Docket No. EP 346 (Sub-No. 29), Dura-Bond has petitioned the Board for partial revocation of the commodity class exemptions applicable to Railways' transportation of steel plates to, and large diameter steel pipes from, Dura-Bond's Steelton facility so that the Board may address the allegations in its complaint.² (Pet. 12.)

¹ Railways, previously known as Steelton & Highspire Railroad Company (S&H), was acquired by Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. (Cliffs), a noncarrier, in 2020. See Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.—Acquis. of Control Exemption—Brandywine Valley R.R., FD 36449 (STB served Nov. 6, 2020).

² In 1993, the Board's predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission, exempted from its regulation the railroad transportation of several commodities, including "33-12 Primary

Given the allegation that Railways will cease rail service to Dura-Bond on January 13, 2026, Railways will be directed to file its reply to the motion for preliminary injunction no later than December 18, 2025. In that reply, Railways should also address the petition for partial revocation to the extent necessary to respond to the motion for preliminary injunction. Dura-Bond will be directed to submit any rebuttal argument no later than December 22, 2025. Further, Dura-Bond will be directed to serve copies of its complaint, motion for preliminary injunction, petition for partial revocation, and this decision on NSR, and certify to the Board that it has done so, by December 12, 2025.

It is ordered:

1. Railways shall file its reply to Dura-Bond's motion for preliminary injunction and petition for partial revocation, to the extent necessary to respond to the motion for preliminary injunction, by December 18, 2025.
2. Dura-Bond shall file any rebuttal argument by December 22, 2025.
3. Dura-Bond is directed to serve copies of its complaint, motion for preliminary injunction, petition for partial revocation, and this decision on NSR, and certify to the Board that it has done so, by December 12, 2025.
4. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

iron or steel.” See Rail Gen. Exemption Auth.—Pet. of AAR to Exempt Rail Transp. of Selected Commodity Grps., 9 I.C.C.2d 969, 971 (1993). According to Dura-Bond, the Standard Transportation Commodity Code for steel plates is 3312253, and the code for large diameter steel pipe is 3312649. (Pet. 2.)