

SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 18, 2025

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36447

LAKE PROVIDENCE PORT COMMISSION—
FEEDER LINE APPLICATION—LINE OF DELTA SOUTHERN RAILROAD LOCATED IN
EAST CARROLL AND MADISON PARISHES, LA.

Decided: December 18, 2025

This proceeding involves efforts by the Lake Providence Port Commission (LPPC), a noncarrier political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, to acquire the portion of the McGehee-Tallulah rail corridor owned by Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. (DSR), a Class III rail carrier, through a feeder line application under 49 U.S.C. § 10907 and 49 C.F.R. part 1151.

On December 12, 2025, the Board issued a decision that, among other things, assigned and authorized Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Jenifer Soulikias to address discovery matters in this docket. Lake Providence Port Comm’n—Feeder Line Appl.—Line of Delta S. R.R. Located in E. Carroll & Madison Parishes, La. (Referral Decision), FD 36447, slip op. at 3 (STB served Dec. 12, 2025). The parties were therefore directed to send “a copy of all filings and documents relating to the amended [feeder line] application, including submissions already filed with the Board,” to Judge Soulikias. (Id. at 4.)

On December 15, 2025, DSR and LPPC jointly filed a “request for clarification” of the Board’s referral order. The parties note that there have been about 80 filings in the docket since the amended feeder line application was filed on January 4, 2023, including filings related to “rulings already made.” (DSR/LPPC Req. 1, Dec. 15, 2025.) DSR and LPPC therefore request that the Board “clarify” that they are required to provide Judge Soulikias “only those filings that relate to the present discovery disputes.” (Id.)

No clarification of the Referral Decision is necessary. As the parties appear to recognize, the decision states that they are to provide ALJ Soulikias “*all* filings and documents relating to the amended application,” Referral Decision at 4 (emphasis added), not just those that “relate to the present discovery disputes,” (DSR/LPPC Req. 1, Dec. 15, 2025.). It is the Board’s practice to direct the parties to provide the ALJ with a copy of the entire record when a proceeding is assigned to an ALJ to ensure that the ALJ has a complete picture of the history of the proceeding. Under this approach, which provides context that could expedite the resolution of discovery disputes, the parties are not left to determine which parts of the record might be relevant to matters decided by the ALJ. See, e.g., Norfolk S. Corp.—Acquis. of Control—Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line R.R., FD 36836, slip op. at 2 (STB served Aug. 8, 2025); BNSF Ry.—Pet.

for Enforcement—Interchange with Savage Tooele R.R., FD 32760 (Sub-No. 50), slip op. at 2 (STB served Nov. 26, 2025). Accordingly, the request for clarification is denied.

It is ordered:

1. The joint request for clarification of the Referral Decision is denied.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

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