



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
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Office of the General Counsel

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Meeting under Section 5, STB Reauthorization Act
December 20, 2021
Part of
Public Record
October 14, 2021

Present: Members Begeman, Fuchs, Oberman, Primus, and Schultz
Staff Nathaniel Bawcombe, Stephanie Borges, Rachel Campbell, Anika Cooper, Amanda Gorski, Kim Hillenbrand, Fred Horne, Adam Kress, Elizabeth McGrath, Lisa Novins, Robert Plum, Valerie Quinn, Michael Small, Scott Zimmerman

Topic: Docket No. FD 36503, Grand Elk Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition Exemption – Lines of Wisconsin Central Ltd. in the State of Michigan; Docket No. FD 36504, Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System, L.L.C. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Wisconsin Central Ltd. in the State of Wisconsin; Docket No. FD 36505, Watco Holdings Inc. – Exemption for Intra-Corporate Family Transaction – Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System, L.L.C. and Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, L.L.C.; Docket No. FD 36506, Watco Holdings Inc. – Continuance in Control Exemption – Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System, L.L.C.

Summary of the Matters Discussed, Prepared by Acting General Counsel Anika Cooper¹:

In these dockets, Watco Holdings, Inc., a noncarrier holding company, its newly created subsidiary Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System, L.L.C., a noncarrier, and Grand Elk Railroad, Inc., a Class III carrier and Watco Holdings subsidiary, filed several notices of exemption and a petition for exemption in furtherance of the acquisitions of rail lines in Wisconsin and Michigan from Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL). At this meeting, staff briefed Board Members on recent filings and comments submitted in the proceeding and the statutory provisions and precedent concerning exemptions.

¹ General Counsel Craig Keats was on leave on October 14, 2021, and designated Anika Cooper as Acting General Counsel for this meeting.