



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 30, 2018
Part of
Public Record

July 30, 2018

By E-Filing

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Ex Parte No. 670 (Sub-No. 2), Notice of Rail Energy Transportation
Advisory Committee Vacancies

Dear Ms. Brown:

I write to nominate BETTE J. WHALEN to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

I nominate Bette both because of her thorough knowledge of all facets of energy transportation as a consequence of her sixteen years of experience in managing fuels and fuel transportation at the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), and because of her keen desire to become engaged in the work of the RETAC. LCRA is among the nation's largest state-owned utilities and has provided wholesale power throughout Central Texas for over eighty years. LCRA currently services over thirty municipal and cooperative utilities. Equally important is the fact that LCRA is also a market participant in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). For this reason, Bette's responsibilities with LCRA have required that she become well informed on the role of all utility energy sources and their transportation in a centralized power market.

Bette's degree is in chemistry. For over twenty years, she worked in the computer field, primarily with IBM, where she co-authored a computer circuit board chip testing patent. In 2002, she joined LCRA. She assumed responsibility for managing LCRA's fuel subcommittee, procuring coal and coal transportation for LCRA's power plants, managing our coal and coal transportation contracts, tracking trains and coal deliveries, and maintaining the stockpile at an appropriate level. It is fair to say that Bette is an expert in all phases of the transportation of coal. In 2009, she was promoted to Coal and Rail Specialist Principal, with direct responsibility for negotiations and

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown

Page 2

July 30, 2018

administration with coal and rail suppliers. She reports directly to our senior management.

In addition to her excellent work for LCRA, Bette is also very active with several industry associations and committees. Most recently, Bette has served as President of the Western Coal Traffic League (WCTL). In this capacity, she has appeared on behalf of WCTL in several important rail transportation proceedings, including attendance at the Board's field hearing on rail service issues in Fargo, North Dakota (Ex Parte No. 724), leading the WCTL delegation that was the first to meet with Board staff regarding railroad performance data reporting (Ex Parte No. 724 (Sub-No. 4)), and meeting with the Government Accountability Office in April 2016 to discuss railroad contracting practices as part of the review mandated by the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015. Earlier this summer, Bette visited with the Board's Rate Reform Task Force on issues related to rail revenue adequacy.

The Board established RETAC to provide a balanced cross-section of industry stakeholders to provide candid policy advice to the Board and to foster open, effective communications. I believe that Bette Whalen is ideally suited to participate in that mission. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise in collaborative endeavors as well as the ideal temperament to engage in constructive discussion of major issues and challenges facing the energy and rail industry. Equally important is the fact that Bette is respected and well regarded by both her utility colleagues and her energy and transportation peers.

For these reasons, I highly recommend that Bette be selected to become a RETAC member, and I commend her to the Chairman's favorable consideration. I have attached a copy of Bette's resume. Finally, I can unequivocally state that Bette is willing to serve in this position for a three-year term and to do so in a representative capacity, and that she is not a federally-registered lobbyist. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions or clarifications regarding Bette's candidacy.

Respectfully yours,



Ken Price
Chief Operating Officer
Lower Colorado River Authority

w/encl. (Bette J. Whalen Resume)

BETTE J. WHALEN

8800 Whiteworth Loop, Austin, TX 78746 • bette.whalen@lcra.org

Professional Summary

Fuels professional with 16 years' experience with coal supply and rail transportation contract negotiation and administration. Possess a structured and analytical approach to tasks, as well as effective verbal and written communication skills for both technical and non-technical audiences.

Skills

Contract negotiation
Contract administration
Project management

Data analysis
Interpersonal and written communication
Team liaison

Work History

Coal and Rail Specialist Principal, 2009 to Current

Lower Colorado River Authority – Austin, TX

Perform coal, coal related, and counterparty contract negotiations, contract administration and analysis. Use delegated authority to purchase coal in the spot market.

Monitor and manage coal inventories and their related accounting and budgets.

First line of contact with partner in joint ownership power plants on fuel and fuel transportation issues.

Develop and deliver various reports and presentations to management, executives and other stakeholders.

Fuels Administrator, 2002 to 2009

Lower Colorado River Authority – Austin, TX

Preside over fuel subcommittee for Fayette Power Project Management Committee. Install and manage FIS Align Fuels Management database for tracking fuel and transportation contracts, shipments, inventory and invoicing. Solicit and procure coal for power plant. Manage coal and transportation contracts for multiple counterparties.

Engineering Manager, 1998 to 2002

Multek – Austin, TX

Supervised 13 Computer Aided Manufacturing operators and engineers responsible for receiving customer design data for quick turn printed circuit board manufacturing.

Process and Research Engineer, 1979 to 1998

IBM – TX

Chemical Process Engineering support for printed circuit board manufacturing for federal and commercial IBM computer products.

Education

B.S: Chemistry

State University of New York - Cortland

Magda cum Laude

Accomplishments

Named co-author of patent, "Method and Apparatus of In-Situ Testing of Integrated Circuit Chips"

Additional Information

Western Coal Traffic League president: 2015 - present

Western Coal Traffic League treasurer: 2011 - 2015