

August 17, 2018

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Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No.2)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
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RE: Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) Vacancies

Candidate Nomination for Phillip C. Obie II, PMP.

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to offer my interest in serving on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee, filling the vacancy of an electric utility, representing a state owned utility, as noted in the July 20, 2018 Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No.2).

I am currently the Group Leader of Bulk Power at Santee Cooper, South Carolina's State Owned Electric and Water Utility. In this role I am responsible for the leadership and coordination of the utilities solid and liquid fuel and transportation procurement and logistics program. It is our mission to provide the lowest cost power to our customers and with coal making up over 40% of our generation portfolio, rail transportation is a major cost component of our coal and power cost. We are a captive shipper of the CSX Transportation Railroad and ship coal from three of the different coal basins the railroad serves. Over the past 10 years, we have seen our rail volumes decrease from a high of 10 million tons to 3 million tons per year. This decrease in volume is due not only to delivered cost of coal but also other, more economic, sources of power and unit closures.

With my over 14 years of experience at Santee Cooper, I feel I am uniquely qualified to fill the RETAC's utility / state or municipal owned representative vacancy. In my time here we have negotiated three amendments / extensions of our CSX Contract, two of those negotiations were lead directly by me. With those negotiations we have seen increases and decreases in our rail rates. With our most recent negotiation, we saw a decrease in our rail rates, which will help us transport on average 4 to 5 million tons of coal per year to our two remaining coal fired stations. I believe we were able to achieve this success by educating the leaders in the rail industry the real impact rail transportation cost have on the dispatching of coal units and the pressure of other, alternative, competitive sources to coal.

In addition to the coal and transportation procurement I also manage our railcar fleet, which consists of over 1,600 cars that are utility owned. I am responsible for developing the long term forecast of coal and transportation along with the corporate fuels budget for these commodities. Most recently I helped navigate our stations through a period of record stockpile inventories that spanned a period of almost 4 year. During this time we balanced our rail contract obligations along with our coal commitments, ensuring we lived up to our contract languages we had agreed to years before. I have

further experience in managing the dispatch cost of the coal units monthly and helping ensure others understand the constraints of the dispatch in general.

I am an active supporter of the industry and attend numerous industry conferences a year and have presented at some of those conferences. I received an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and have since earned two master degrees in Business Administration and Project Management. I am a certified project manager with the Project Management Institute. In addition to my career in the utility industry I represented my community on the Berkeley County Board of Education for 2 terms. I currently serve on the board of the Boy Scouts of America Coastal Carolina Council, my home council where I earned my Eagle Scout back in 1996, and volunteer with the local United Way's day of caring.

I look forward to speaking with you further about becoming a member of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip Obie II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillip Obie II, PMP
Group Leader- Bulk Power
Santee Cooper
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