



January 17, 2017

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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RE: Docket No. 730, Sub. No. 1

Dear Ms. Brown,

Please accept this letter of application as my willingness to serve as a rail arbitrator for the Surface Transportation Board.

I have worked in the agricultural industry since 1984, including experience in grain merchandising, commodity trading, transportation and regulatory affairs. I began my career with Cargill, Inc. where I was promoted to the Eastern Region Train Merchandiser based in Maumee, OH. I was responsible for originating and trading grain from over 100 train houses in the states of IN, OH, MI and IL for export through Albany NY; Norfolk VA; and Charleston SC utilizing a controlled fleet of 1,500 railcars. In 1989, I began working with The Andersons in Maumee, OH as the Agriculture Group Transportation Manager. In this position, I managed the truck and rail transportation needs for the grain, wholesale fertilizer, and retail farm center divisions. In 1997, I began working with Perdue Farms, Inc. and I have held a series of positions of increasing responsibility including Director Traffic, VP Commodities & Transportation, VP Transportation & Ingredient Purchasing, and SVP Transportation & Regulatory Affairs.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving with trade organizations and government committees. I was a member of the Surface Transportation Board Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council from 1999-2005 holding the offices of Vice Chair, Chair and then member of the Executive Committee. A STB Rail Arbitration program was frequently discussed in this venue. In addition, I am on the Board of Directors of the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA); Vice Chair of the National Grain Car Council (NGCC); a member of the transportation committee for the National Oilseeds Processors Association (NOPA); a member of the North America Freight Car Association (NAFCA); and the National Freight Transportation Association (NFTA).

Through my membership with NGFA, I have gained a great deal of experience with arbitration. I have been a member of the NGFA Rail Arbitration Committee since 1999 and was a member of the task force that originally crafted the rail arbitration rules. This committee, comprised of equal representation from carriers and shippers, oversees the application of the NGFA's unique Rail Arbitration Rules that address specified rail service-related disputes and issues arising between shippers and carriers.



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I have also been a member of the NGFA Arbitration Appeals Panel since 2010. This committee provides the industry with a knowledgeable, cost-effective and expedient method for resolving trade disputes involving grain, feed and grain products; barge freight and secondary rail freight. These two committees serve to maintain, administer and oversee all facets of the NGFA's dispute resolution processes - including further rules changes.

In addition, I have been an arbitrator on five NGFA arbitration cases including:

- Case #1774 (1997) *Plaintiff: Buckeye Cooperative Elevator Co., Buckeye, Iowa. Defendant: Farmland Industries Inc., Kansas City, Mo;*
- Case #1847 (1998) *Plaintiff: Murphy Grain Marketing Inc., Overland Park, Kan. Defendant: Harvest States Cooperatives, St. Paul, Minn.;*
- Case #2015 (2004) *Plaintiff: Ag Processing Inc., Omaha, Neb. Defendant: CSX Transportation Inc., Jacksonville, Fla;*
- Case #2247 (2010) *Plaintiff: Schell and Kampeter Inc. d/b/a Diamond Pet Foods, Meta, Mo. Defendant: Performance AG LLC/Palmetto Grain Brokerage Inc. n/k/a Woods Holds Inc., Ridgeland, S.C., Peoples Grain Company Inc., Hemingway, S.C., Simpson Farms LLC, Manning S.C., and*
- Case #2651 (2015) *Plaintiff: Aurora Cooperative Elevator Company, Aurora, NE Defendant: Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc., Pekin, IL Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., Pekin, IL Aventine Renewable Energy – Aurora West, LLC, Dallas, TX.*

I was chair of the arbitration committee for Case #2247, which was the largest request for damages in NGFA history at that time and involved an oral hearing – a rare occurrence in NGFA arbitration. I was also on the Appeal Panel for an oral hearing on Case #2651. In addition, in 2013, I was a member of a task force which performed a comprehensive review and overhaul of the NGFA arbitration procedural rules that govern the arbitration process.

If I am selected as an STB rail arbitrator, my fee schedule would be \$500 per hour plus expenses.

My contact information is below:

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I appreciate your consideration of my application.

Regards,



Sharon G. Clark
SVP Transportation & Regulatory Affairs
Perdue AgriBusiness LLC