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SEC

SERVICE DATE - MARCH 24, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 34411

NEW ORLEANS & GULF COAST RAILWAY COMPANY, INC.–LEASE
EXEMPTION–UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Decided: March 23, 2004

On September 23, 2003, New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway Company, Inc. (NOGC), a Class III rail carrier, filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41, to exempt from regulation under 49 U.S.C. 10902 its lease and operation of approximately 11.52 miles of rail line from Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP). The line consists of 7.02 miles of UP's main line located between milepost 0.98 at Goldsboro, LA, and milepost 8.00 near Westwego, LA, and the 4.5-mile spur line known as the Hooper Spur located between Harvey Yard, at Harvey, LA, and the end of the spur at Bayou Street.¹

On February 17, 2004, the United Transportation Union (UTU) filed a request for the production of documents, directing NOGC to furnish a Statement of Agreement, including the lease between NOGC and UP and all attachments and exhibits, to which it referred in its notice of exemption at section (c).

On March 2, 2004, NOGC filed a motion for protective order.² NOGC states that the proposed protective order is necessary to facilitate discovery and any submission of information to the Board. NOGC further states that the documents requested by UTU contain proprietary and commercially sensitive information and that the public disclosure of that information would be competitively damaging.

Good cause exists to grant the motion for a protective order. The unrestricted disclosure of confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive material could cause serious competitive injury. Issuance of the requested protective order will ensure that the material produced, in

¹ Notice of the filing was served and published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2003 (68 FR 59987).

² A proposed protective order and undertaking were included with the motion.

response to a discovery request or otherwise, will be used only in connection with this proceeding and not for any other business or commercial purpose.

Parties are reminded, however, that the Board clarified the requirements of 49 CFR 1104.14(a) and 1104.3(b)(4) in a recent decision.³ There, the Board stated that, when filing a Highly Confidential Version (material restricted to review by outside counsel or consultants only), the filing party does not need also to file a Confidential Version with the Board, but must make available (simultaneously with the party's submission to the Board of its Highly Confidential Version) a Confidential Version⁴ reviewable by any other party's in-house counsel or a list of all "highly confidential" information that must be redacted from its Highly Confidential Version prior to review by in-house counsel. Also, a party must file a public version of its submission with any Highly Confidential or Confidential Version it chooses to file. The protective order and confidential undertakings have been modified to conform with these requirements regarding review by in-house counsel.

With the modifications to the proposed protective order and confidential undertakings discussed above, the motion conforms with the Board's rules at 49 CFR 1104.14 governing requests for protective orders to maintain the confidentiality of materials submitted to the Board and the rules at 49 CFR 1114.21(c)) for a protective order regarding discovery. Accordingly, the motion for protective order, as modified, will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. The motion for a protective order, as modified, is granted.
2. The parties are directed to comply with the protective order in the appendix to this decision.

³ Procedures to Expedite Resolution of Rate Challenges to Be Considered under the Stand-alone Cost Methodology, STB Ex Parte No. 638 (STB served Apr. 3, 2003), reconsideration denied (STB served July 31, 2003).

⁴ This Confidential Version may be served on other parties in electronic format only.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

APPENDIX

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. For purposes of this Protective Order:

(a) “Confidential Documents” means documents and other tangible materials containing or reflecting Confidential Information.

(b) “Confidential Information” means traffic data (including but not limited to waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, and any documents or computer tapes containing data derived from waybills, abstracts, study movement sheets, or other data bases, and cost work papers); the identification of shippers and receivers in conjunction with shipper-specific or other traffic data; the confidential terms of contracts with shippers or carriers; confidential financial and cost data; divisions of rates, trackage rights compensation levels and other compensation between carriers; and other confidential or proprietary business or personal information.

(c) “Designated Material” means any documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with paragraph 2 or 3 of this Protective Order and any Confidential Information contained in such materials.

(d) “Proceedings” means those before the Surface Transportation Board (“Board”) concerning the transaction in STB Finance Docket No. 34411, and any related proceedings before the Board, and any judicial review proceedings arising from STB Finance Docket No. 34411 or from any related proceedings before the Board.

2. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed, or served in these Proceedings contains Confidential Information or consists of Confidential Documents, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information and Confidential Documents as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be handled as provided for hereinafter.

3. If any party to these Proceedings determines that any part of a document it submits, discovery request it propounds, discovery response it produces, transcript of a deposition or hearing in which it participates, or pleading or other paper to be submitted, filed, or served in these Proceedings contains shipper-specific rate or cost data; divisions of rates, trackage rights

compensation levels, or other compensation between carriers; or other competitively sensitive or proprietary information, then that party may designate and stamp such Confidential Information as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” Any information or documents so designated or stamped shall be handled as provided hereinafter.

4. Information and documents designated or stamped as “CONFIDENTIAL” may not be disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, or to any person or entity except to an employee, counsel, consultant, or agent of a party to these Proceedings, or an employee of such counsel, consultant, or agent, who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit A to this Protective Order.

5. Information and documents designated or stamped as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” may not be disclosed in any way, directly or indirectly, to any employee of a party to these Proceedings, or to any other person or entity except to an outside counsel or outside consultant who, before receiving access to such information or documents, has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by its terms by signing a confidentiality undertaking substantially in the form set forth at Exhibit B to this Protective Order.

6. Any party to these Proceedings who designates information or documents as “Highly Confidential” also must make available a confidential version reviewable by any other party’s in-house counsel or a list of all information for a party’s outside counsel that must be redacted prior to review by that party’s in-house counsel.

7. Any party to these Proceedings may challenge the designation by any other party of information or documents as “CONFIDENTIAL” or as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” by filing a motion with the Board or with an administrative law judge or other officer to whom authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board to adjudicate such challenges.

8. Designated material may not be used for any purposes, including without limitation any business, commercial or competitive purposes, other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in STB Finance Docket No. 34411, any related proceedings before the Board, and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with STB Finance Docket No. 34411 and/or with any related proceedings.

9. Any party who receives Designated Material in discovery shall destroy such materials and any notes or documents reflecting such materials (other than file copies of pleadings or other documents filed with the Board and retained by outside counsel for a party to these Proceedings) at the earlier of: (1) such time as the party receiving the materials withdraws from these Proceedings, or (2) the completion of these Proceedings, including any petitions for reconsideration, appeals, or remands.

10. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to the Board, unless the pleading or other document is submitted under seal, in a package clearly marked on the outside as “Confidential Materials Subject to Protective Order.” See 49 CFR 1104.14. All pleadings and other documents so submitted shall be kept confidential by the Board and shall not be placed in the public docket in these Proceedings except by order of the Board or of an administrative law judge or other officer in the exercise of authority lawfully delegated by the Board.

11. No party may include Designated Material in any pleading, brief, discovery request or response, or other document submitted to any forum other than the Board in these Proceedings unless: (1) the pleading or other document is submitted under seal in accordance with a protective order that requires the pleading or other document to be kept confidential by that tribunal and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, or (2) the pleading or other document is submitted in a sealed package clearly marked “Confidential Materials Subject to Request for Protective Order,” and is accompanied by a motion to that tribunal requesting issuance of a protective order that would require the pleading or other document be kept confidential and not be placed in the public docket in the proceeding, and requesting that if the motion for protective order is not issued by that tribunal, the pleading or other document be returned to the filing party.

12. No party may present or otherwise use any Designated Material at a Board hearing in these Proceedings, unless that party has previously submitted, under seal, all proposed exhibits and other documents containing or reflecting such Designated Material to the Board, to an administrative law judge or to another officer to whom relevant authority has been lawfully delegated by the Board, and has accompanied such submission with a written request that the Board, administrative law judge, or other officer: (a) restrict attendance at the hearing during any discussion of such Designated Material, and (b) restrict access to any portion of the record or briefs reflecting discussion of such Designated Material in accordance with this Protective Order.

13. If any party intends to use any Designated Material in the course of any deposition in these Proceedings, that party shall so advise counsel for the party producing the Designated Material, counsel for the deponent, and all other counsel attending the deposition. Attendance at any portion of the deposition at which any Designated Material is used or discussed shall be restricted to persons who may review that material under the terms of this Protective Order. All portions of deposition transcripts or exhibits that consist of, refer to, or otherwise disclose Designated Material shall be filed under seal and be otherwise handled as provided in paragraph 10 of this Protective Order.

14. To the extent that materials reflecting Confidential Information are produced by a party in these Proceedings, and are held and/or used by the receiving person in compliance with paragraphs 1, 2, or 3 above, such production, disclosure, holding, and use of the materials and of the data that the materials contain are deemed essential for the disposition of this and any related proceedings and will not be deemed a violation of 49 U.S.C. 11904 or of any other relevant provision of the ICC Termination Act of 1995.

15. All parties must comply with all of the provisions of this Protective Order unless the Board or an administrative law judge or other officer exercising authority lawfully delegated by the Board determines that good cause has been shown warranting suspension of any of the provisions herein.

16. Nothing in this Protective Order restricts the right of any party to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Information originated by that party, or to disclose voluntarily any Confidential Documents originated by that party, if such Confidential Information or Confidential Documents do not contain or reflect any Confidential Information originated by any other party.

EXHIBIT A

UNDERTAKING

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____, have read the Protective Order served on _____, 2004, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in STB Finance Docket No. 34411, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in STB Finance Docket No. 34411, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, and/or any judicial review proceedings in connection with STB Finance Docket No. 34411 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed Undertakings in the form hereof, and that at the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting materials designated or stamped as "CONFIDENTIAL," other than file copies, kept by outside counsel, of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that Applicants or other parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

Dated: _____

EXHIBIT B

UNDERTAKING

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

I, _____, am outside [counsel] [consultant] for _____, for whom I am acting in this proceeding. I have read the Protective Order served on _____, 2004, governing the production and use of Confidential Information and Confidential Documents in STB Finance Docket No. 34411, understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or to permit the use of any Confidential Information or Confidential Documents obtained pursuant to that Protective Order, or to use or to permit the use of any methodologies or techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purpose other than the preparation and presentation of evidence and argument in STB Finance Docket No. 34411, any related proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, or any judicial review proceedings in connection with STB Finance Docket No. 34411 and/or with any related proceedings. I further agree not to disclose any Confidential Information, Confidential Documents, methodologies, techniques, or data obtained pursuant to the Protective Order except to persons who are also bound by the terms of the Order and who have executed Highly Confidential undertakings in the form hereof.

I also understand and agree, as a condition precedent to my receiving, reviewing, or using copies of any information or documents designated or stamped as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL," that I will take all necessary steps to ensure that said information or documents be kept on a confidential basis by any outside counsel or outside consultants working with me; that under no circumstances will I permit access to said materials or information by employees of, or represented by, my client or its subsidiaries, affiliates, or owners; and that at the conclusion of this proceeding (including any proceeding on administrative review, judicial review, or remand), I will promptly destroy any documents containing or reflecting information or documents designated or stamped as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL," other than file copies kept by outside counsel of pleadings and other documents filed with the Board.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this undertaking and that Applicants or other parties producing Confidential Information or Confidential Documents shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive and/or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed

to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

OUTSIDE [COUNSEL] [CONSULTANT]

Dated: _____