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SEC

SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 27, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 628

EXPEDITED RELIEF FOR SERVICE INADEQUACIES

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board

ACTION: Extension of time for filing reply comments.

SUMMARY: In a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking served October 15, 1998, and published in the Federal Register on October 20, 1998 (63 FR 55996) (October supplemental notice), the Surface Transportation Board requested the filing of supplemental reply comments on November 6, 1998. In response to a request filed by Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the Board is extending for one week (to November 13, 1998) the date for filing supplemental replies. The supplemental comment date of October 30, 1998, remains the same.

DATE: Supplemental reply comments are now due November 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: An original plus 12 copies of all supplemental replies, referring to STB Ex Parte No. 628, must be sent to the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, copies should be served upon all parties included in the service list issued by the Board in its notices served June 9 and 16, 1998, which are available on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov). The October supplemental notice contains further information concerning the availability of obtaining, copying, and seeing documents, and the requirements for electronic submission of documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a decision in this proceeding served May 12, 1998, and published in the Federal Register on May 18, 1998 (63 FR 27253), the Board instituted a proceeding to solicit comments on proposed rules that would establish expedited procedures for shippers to obtain alternative rail service from another carrier when the incumbent carrier cannot properly serve shippers. In the October supplemental notice, the Board requested comments on a request by the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) for similar expedited procedures to be established for Class II and Class III railroads to obtain temporary access to an additional carrier under similar circumstances. Supplemental comments on the ASLRRA request are due October 30, 1998. Supplemental replies to such comments are due November 6, 1998.

In a request filed October 22, 1998, EEI asks that the supplemental reply comments be due on or before November 13, 1998. In support of its request, EEI submits that the one-week extension is needed, inter alia, to prepare meaningful replies and to coordinate with other parties, and to avoid conflict with two meetings outside Washington, D.C. on November 2-3 and November 4-6, involving a large number of shippers. EEI states that ASLRRA does not oppose the one-week extension. EEI's request is reasonable, and it will be granted.

Decided: October 27, 1998.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary