

1001 G Street, N.W.
Suite 500 West
Washington, D.C. 20001
tel. 202.434.4100
fax 202.434.4646

Writer's Direct Access
Martin W. Bercovici
(202) 434-4144
bercovici@khlaw.com

March 3, 2006

Hon. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Room 711
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Albemarle Corporation--Petition for Declaratory Order--Certain Rates and
Practices of The Louisiana and North West Railroad Company,
Docket No. NOR-42096; Report and Request to Hold Proceeding in Abeyance

Dear Secretary Williams:

Albemarle Corporation and The Louisiana and North West Railroad Company ("LNW") have agreed to engage in mediation in an attempt to settle their differences. In light of the foregoing, the parties request the Board to hold this matter in abeyance pending the completion of mediation. The mediation is scheduled to be conducted on April 24 and 25, 2006.

Albemarle Corporation intends to submit a response to LNW's Reply filed February 28, 2006, in the event this matter is not settled. Albemarle believes the Reply is in the nature of a Motion to Dismiss and/or a Motion for Summary Judgment,¹ and Albemarle believes it is entitled (or at a minimum should be allowed in the interest of developing a complete record) to reply. LNW does not necessarily share this position.

We have been authorized by LNW's counsel to advise the Board that LNW concurs in both the report concerning mediation and the request to hold this matter in abeyance.

Sincerely,



Martin W. Bercovici
Attorney for Albemarle Corporation

cc: Edward J. Fishman, Esq. (by electronic mail and by 1st class mail, postage prepaid)
Attorney for The Louisiana and North West Railroad Company

¹ See, e.g., 49 C.F.R. §1111.5.