

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

222823

STB EX PARTE NO 677 (Sub-No 1)

COMMON CARRIER OBLIGATION OF RAILROADS –
TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF ARKANSAS ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

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**WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF ARKANSAS ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE CORPORATION**

Pursuant to the Board's notice served June 4, 2008 (as subsequently modified), this document presents the comments of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) regarding the common carrier obligation of railroads in the transportation of hazardous materials 1/ AECC does not wish to have a representative appear at the public hearing scheduled for July 22, 2008

In addition to the concerns regarding the common carrier obligation in the context of coal transportation addressed in AECC's appearance at the public hearing in Ex Parte No 677 held in April 2008, electric generators face a critical need to receive substantial volumes of ammonia and other chemicals that are considered hazardous, for use in pollution control equipment and other purposes In AECC's experience, transporting those materials by railroad is the safest and most efficient mode of transportation available at this time

1/ A description of AECC and its interests in matters that affect rail price/service options is presented in AECC's written submission (dated April 17, 2008) in Ex Parte No. 677 In the interest of brevity this description is not repeated here

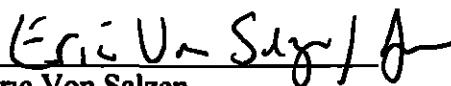
AECC generally defers to the other shipper representatives who will be discussing these issues. However, in response to the Board's stated interest in obtaining "the wide range of views from all stakeholders," AECC offers the following specific observations:

1. Based on AECC's experience that railroads are able to move hazardous materials with high efficiency and low risk, factors that unduly hinder or undermine use of rail would plainly be contrary to the public interest, and,
2. The use of hazardous materials in pollution control equipment provides a legitimate rationale for public sector involvement in underwriting at least a portion of the risk associated with the transportation of those materials (i.e., because they reduce undesirable externalities)

Respectfully submitted,

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