

Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to SEA, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling SEA at 202-927-6211.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at [INSERT TELEPHONE NUMBER]. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative (name and address).

[56 FR 36105, July 31, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 49821, Oct. 1, 1991; 58 FR 44619, Aug. 24, 1993; 61 FR 67883, Dec. 24, 1996; 64 FR 53268, Oct. 1, 1999]

PARTS 1106–1107 [RESERVED]

PART 1108—ARBITRATION OF CERTAIN DISPUTES SUBJECT TO THE STATUTORY JURISDICTION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 721(a).

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§1108.1 Definitions.

(a) *Arbitrator* means an arbitrator appointed pursuant to these provisions.

(b) *ICC* means the Interstate Commerce Commission.

(c) *Interstate Commerce Act* means the Interstate Commerce Act as amended from time to time, including the amendments made by the ICC Termination Act of 1995.

(d) *RSTAC* means the Rail-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council established pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 726.

(e) *STB* means the Surface Transportation Board.

(f) *Statutory jurisdiction* means the jurisdiction conferred on the STB by the Interstate Commerce Act, including jurisdiction over rail transportation or services that have been exempted from regulation.

§1108.2 Statement of purpose, organization, and jurisdiction.

(a) These provisions are intended to provide a means for the binding, voluntary arbitration of certain disputes subject to the statutory jurisdiction of the STB, either between two or more railroads subject to the jurisdiction of the STB or between any such railroad and any other person.

(b) These procedures shall not be available to obtain the grant, denial, stay or revocation of any license, authorization (e.g., construction, abandonment, purchase, trackage rights, merger, pooling) or exemption, or to prescribe for the future any conduct, rules, or results of general, industry-wide applicability. Nor are they available for arbitration that is conducted pursuant to labor protective conditions. These procedures are intended for the resolution of specific disputes between specific parties involving the payment of money or involving rates or practices related to rail transportation or service subject to the statutory jurisdiction of the STB.

(c) The alternative means of dispute resolution provided for herein are established pursuant to the authority of the STB to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to fulfill its jurisdictional mandate and not pursuant to the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, 5 U.S.C. 571 *et seq.*

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(d) On January 1, 1996, the STB replaced the ICC. For purposes of these procedures, it is immaterial whether an exemption from regulation was granted by the ICC or the STB.

§1108.3 Matters subject to arbitration.

(a) Any controversy between two or more parties, subject to resolution by the STB, and subject to the limitations in §1108.2 hereof, may be processed pursuant to the provisions of this part 1108, if all necessary parties voluntarily subject themselves to arbitration under these provisions after notice as provided herein.

(b) Arbitration under these provisions is limited to matters over which the STB has statutory jurisdiction and may include disputes arising in connection with jurisdictional transportation, including service being conducted pursuant to an exemption. An Arbitrator should decline to accept, or to render a decision regarding, any dispute that exceeds the STB's statutory jurisdiction. Such Arbitrator may resolve any dispute properly before him/her in the manner and to the extent provided herein, but only to the extent of and within the limits of the STB's statutory jurisdiction. In so resolving any such dispute, the Arbitrator will not be bound by any procedural rules or regulations adopted by the STB for the resolution of similar disputes, except as specifically provided in this part 1108; provided, however, that the Arbitrator will be guided by the Interstate Commerce Act and by STB and ICC precedent.

§1108.4 Relief.

(a) Subject to specification in the complaint, as provided in §1108.7 herein, an Arbitrator may grant the following types of relief:

(1) Monetary damages, to the extent available under the Interstate Commerce Act, with interest at a reasonable rate to be specified by the Arbitrator.

(2) Specific performance of statutory obligations (including the prescription of reasonable rates), but for a period not to exceed 3 years from the effective date of the Arbitrator's award.

(b) A party may petition an Arbitrator to modify or vacate an arbitral

award in effect that directs future specific performance, based on materially changed circumstances or the criteria for vacation of an award contained in 9 U.S.C. 10.

(1) A petition to modify or vacate an award in effect should be filed with the STB. The petition will be assigned to the Arbitrator that rendered the award unless that Arbitrator is unavailable, in which event the matter will be assigned to another Arbitrator.

(2) Any such award shall continue in effect pending disposition of the request to modify or vacate. Any such request shall be handled as expeditiously as practicable with due regard to providing an opportunity for the presentation of the parties' views.

§1108.5 Fees and costs.

(a) Fees will be utilized to defray the costs of the STB in administering this alternate dispute resolution program in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 9701. The fees for filing a complaint, answer, third party complaint, third party answer, appeals of arbitration decisions, and petitions to modify or vacate an arbitration award will be as set forth in 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(87). All fees are non-refundable except as specifically provided and are due with the paying party's first filing in any proceeding.

(b) The parties may agree among themselves who will bear the expenses of arbitration, including compensation of the arbitrator. Absent an agreement, each party will bear its own expenses, including, without limitation, fees of experts or counsel. Absent an agreement, the fees of the Arbitrator will be paid by the party or parties losing an arbitration entirely. If no party loses an arbitration entirely (as determined by the Arbitrator), the parties shall share equally (or pro rata if more than two parties) the fees and expenses, if any, of the Arbitrator, absent an agreement otherwise.

§1108.6 Arbitrators.

(a) Arbitration shall be conducted by an arbitrator (or panel of arbitrators) selected, as provided herein, from a roster of persons (other than active government officials) experienced in rail transportation or economic issues