

§1144.4 Investigation of proposed cancellations.

(a) *General.* The Board shall determine that a proposed cancellation of a through route and/or joint rate is contrary to the public interest under 49 U.S.C. 10705 if it finds that the cancellation, or a rate that would remain in place after the cancellation, is contrary to the competition policies of 49 U.S.C. 10101a or is otherwise anti-competitive.

(b) *Factors.* In making its determination, the Board will take into account all relevant factors, including:

(1) The revenues of the involved railroads on the affected traffic via the rail routes in question.

(2) The efficiency of the rail routes in question, including the costs of operating via those routes.

(3) The rates charged or sought to be charged by the canceling railroad or railroads.

(4) The revenues, following the cancellation, of the involved railroads for the traffic in question via the affected through route; the costs of the involved railroads for that traffic via that route; the ratios of those revenues to those costs; and all circumstances relevant to any difference in those ratios; provided that the mere loss of revenue to an affected carrier will not be a basis for finding that a cancellation is anti-competitive.

(c) *Other considerations.* (1) The Board will not consider product competition.

(2) If a railroad wishes to rely in any way on geographic competition, it will have the burden of proving the existence of effective geographic competition by clear and convincing evidence.

(3) Where a cancellation has been determined to be contrary to the competitive standards of this section, the overall revenue inadequacy of the canceling carrier will not excuse such a cancellation.

(4) Any investigations of proposed cancellations under the terms of this paragraph will be conducted and concluded by the Board on an expedited basis.

§1144.5 Prescription.

(a) *General.* A through route or a through rate shall be prescribed under 49 U.S.C. 10705, or a switching arrange-

ment shall be established under 49 U.S.C. 11103, if the Board determines:

(1) That the prescription or establishment (i) is necessary to remedy or prevent an act that is contrary to the competition policies of 49 U.S.C. 10101a or is otherwise anti-competitive, and (ii) otherwise satisfies the criteria of 49 U.S.C. 10705 and 11103, as appropriate. In making its determination, the Board shall take into account all relevant factors, including:

(A) The revenues of the involved railroads on the affected traffic via the rail routes in question.

(B) The efficiency of the rail routes in question, including the costs of operating via those routes.

(C) The rates or compensation charged or sought to be charged by the railroad or railroads from which prescription or establishment is sought.

(D) The revenues, following the prescription, of the involved railroads for the traffic in question via the affected route; the costs of the involved railroads for that traffic via that route; the ratios of those revenues to those costs; and all circumstances relevant to any difference in those ratios; provided that the mere loss of revenue to an affected carrier shall not be a basis for finding that a prescription or establishment is necessary to remedy or prevent an act contrary to the competitive standards of this section; and

(2) That either:

(i) The complaining shipper has used or would use the through route, through rate, or reciprocal switching to meet a significant portion of its current or future railroad transportation needs between the origin and destination; or

(ii) The complaining carrier has used or would use the affected through route, through rate, or reciprocal switching for a significant amount of traffic.

(b) *Other considerations.* (1) The Board will not consider product competition.

(2) If a railroad wishes to rely in any way on geographic competition, it will have the burden of proving the existence of effective geographic competition by clear and convincing evidence.

(3) When prescription of a through route, a through rate, or reciprocal switching is necessary to remedy or