

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD EXTENDS DATE FOR INFORMATION FILINGS
BY SHIPPER GROUPS**

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**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD EXTENDS DATE FOR
INFORMATION FILINGS BY SHIPPER GROUPS**

Surface Transportation Board (Board) Chairman Linda J. Morgan announced today that the Board has issued an order granting a motion of the National Industrial Traffic League (NITL) for an extension of the date by which shipper groups are to file information on the performance of the Union Pacific Railroad Company/Southern Pacific Transportation Company (UP/SP) and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF).

In a decision issued on January 14, 1998, the Board asked shipper groups to provide information concerning the levels of service that their members are currently receiving from UP/SP and, to a lesser extent, BNSF. See "Surface Transportation Board News" release No. 98-1, issued January 14, 1998. The Board requested reports by February 13, 1998, covering the 4-month period ending February 6, 1998. NITL, however, asked the Board to extend the February 6 due date until February 20, 1998, on the grounds that (1) it has already planned a meeting of its members for February 13, and so a brief extension will enable it to report on its meeting; and (2) a short extension will facilitate its ability to obtain and compile data into a useful product.

The Board found NITL's request reasonable, and granted it. Thus, reports are now due on February 20, 1998.

The Board decision was issued today in the cases entitled *Joint Petition For Service Order*, STB Service Order No. 1518, and *Rail Service in the Western United States*, STB Ex Parte No. 573.

[STOP]