

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON CASE INVOLVING COAL DUST ISSUE

The Surface Transportation Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 29 on a case that centers on whether a railroad may deny service to coal shippers who do not follow the railroad's rules on coal dust dispersal.

The case, [Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation—Petition for Declaratory Order, Docket No. FD 35305](#), raises the issues of whether BNSF Railway Co. may establish rules regarding coal dust dispersion from coal trains operating over its lines and if it can refuse to provide rail service to shippers who do not comply with its rules. The Board will decide if this constitutes an unreasonable practice and whether the provision would violate BNSF's common carrier obligation.

The hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at STB Headquarters, 395 E Street SW, Washington, D.C. The hearing will be open to the public, but only parties of record in the case will be permitted to speak. Parties wishing to participate must file a notice of intent no later than June 18.

A video broadcast of the hearing will be available through the Board's website at www.stb.dot.gov.

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