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The Mission of the STB

- Primary Mission of the STB Remains Unchanged
- Balance Need for Railroads to Earn Adequate Revenues with Shippers' Need for Reasonable Rates
- Ensure Structural Changes in the Railroad Industry are in Public Interest
- But Board is Adapting to Changing Conditions



Recent Activities

- New Approaches to Rate Cases
- Streamlined Procedures to Reduce Time and Cost for Adjudicating Large Rate Cases—Court of Appeals Upheld
- First Large Rate Cases Handled Under New Guidelines—AEP North Texas, Western Fuels, KCPL
- New Small Rate Case Guidelines—DuPont Cases



Recent Activities

- Revised Methodology for Calculating the Railroads' Cost of Capital
- Proposed Disclosure Rules on Paper Barriers—Entergy Case
- Proposed Disclosure Requirements on Contract vs. Common Carriage Rates
- Fuel Surcharge Decision and Carrier/Shipper Responses—Dairyland Case



Recent Activities

- Provide Shipper Access to Confidential Waybill Data To Foster Understanding of STB Calculations for Small Rate Cases
- Require Parties to Use Publicly Available Data in Calculating the Cost of Capital



Recent Activities

- Posting on STB's Website Summaries of Contracts for Hauling Agricultural Products
- Reorganized STB's Office of Consumer and Public Affairs
- Created Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Council
- Sponsored a Study of Competition in Rail Industry--due out in November



Recent Activities

- April 24-25 Hearing on the Railroads' Common Carrier Obligation
- Reviewing Several Important Transactions Including: CP/DM&E/ICE, CN/EJE, NS/Pan Am Railway's Patriot Corridor
- Environmental Review of DOE's Yucca Mountain Project
- Rejected Michigan Central Railway Proposal



Legislative Activities Affecting the STB and/or the Railroad Industry

- Shortline Railroad Investment Tax Credit
- Class I Railroad Investment Tax Credit
- Senate and House Measures to Change Railroad Regulatory Framework
- Proposed Change to Railroad Industry Anti-Trust Exemption
- Proposed Changes to STB's Responsibility Toward Disputes Between Freight RRs and Amtrak/Commuter Rail



Thank you
Any Questions?