Minutes for August 20-21, 2013

The Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (the “Council”) pursuant to notice, held a meeting on August 20-21, 2013 in Newark, NJ in conjunction with various site visits. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, on August 20, 2013, by Chairman Levine.

The following members were present: Chairman/Treasurer: John Levine, Pinsly Railroad Company; Vice Chairman: Tom Giovinazzi, Holcim (US), Inc ; Secretary: Howard Kaplan, U.S. Magnesium, LLC; Robin Burns, Occidental Chemical Corporation; George Duggan, BNSF Railway Company; John Friedmann, Norfolk Southern Corporation; Wayne Hurst, Agricultural Producer; Henry Lampe, Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad; John McCreavy, SMS Rail Services, Inc.; Michael Ogborn, Omnitrax, Inc.; Mike Mohan, Canadian National Railway Company (via phone); Shelley Sahling-Zart, Lincoln Electric System; Daniel R. Elliott III, Surface Transportation Board; Francis P. Mulvey, Surface Transportation Board; Ann D Begeman, Surface Transportation Board; and Scott Greene and Ron Hynes, Federal Railroad Administration.

Also present: STB staff members, Reamy Ancarrow, Gabriel Meyer.

The following member was not present: Leslie Moll, ArcelorMittal USA

Tuesday August 20th:

1. 2:00 pm: Welcome and opening remarks from RSTAC Chairman Levine.
2. Opening remarks from STB commissioners. It was noted that the STB website contained a summary of the Board’s arbitration and mediation processes.
3. Reports from the field
4. Update on PTC White Paper-Mike Ogborn

Final review by RSTAC members

1. Report that RSTAC finances were in good order-John Levine
2. Minutes approved as is from May 2013 meeting.
3. Next meeting November 6th and 7th in Washington DC. Possible future discussion topics included a crude by rail presentation from BNSF. RSTAC members requested that STB staff provide further information on rail performance and ex parte case status for further review during RSTAC members-only section of the next meeting.
4. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.
5. The meeting was followed by a presentation regarding the Port of Newark.

Wednesday, August 21st:

1. On Wednesday a site visit included a train inspection tour from Conrail’s Ridgefield Heights Auto facility on combined passenger/freight tracks by Norfolk Southern and a presentation by Conrail on its 37 year history evolving from a Class I railroad to a switching and terminal operation.