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SEC

SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE AUGUST 20, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

NOTICE

STB Ex Parte No. 655

POWDER RIVER BASIN SITE VISIT

August 20, 2004

On August 2, 3, and 4, 2004, the Board conducted an informational site visit to Powder River Basin rail and mining facilities in Wyoming to examine and explore the engineering and operational considerations associated with transporting the unit-train coal traffic that originates in that area. The Board members (Chairman Nober, Vice Chairman Mulvey, and Commissioner Buttrey) were accompanied by Board staff and by participants from the Western Coal Traffic League, Peabody Coal Company, Arch Coal Inc., National Coal Transportation Association, Union Pacific Railroad Company, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, and the Association of American Railroads.

All written materials received by the Board on that site visit have been placed in the above-captioned docket and have been posted on the Board's website at [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov) for public inspection and review. The Board also received several video tapes that are available at the Board's Offices in the public docket room (Room 755). Any person who wishes to submit comments on the materials may do so by September 20, 2004.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary