

SERVICE DATE – MARCH 26, 2026

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 36911

LAMPWRIGHTS LLC—OPERATION EXEMPTION—
LINE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, PA.

Decided: March 26, 2026

On February 25, 2026, Lampwrights LLC (Lampwrights), a non-carrier, filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.31 to operate approximately 2,269 feet of existing track (the Line) in Jefferson County, Pa., in conjunction with a transloading facility. The Board published notice of the exemption in the Federal Register on March 13, 2026 (91 FR 12480). The exemption is scheduled to take effect on March 27, 2026.

After publication of the notice in the Federal Register, the Board received several petitions asking the Board to reject, revoke, and/or stay the notice.¹ One petition notes that Lampwrights' notice does not address the potential increase in truck traffic and whether it would be sufficient to require an environmental review. (Joshua Dean Pet. 2-3, Mar. 18, 2026.)² In its reply to the petitions, Lampwrights does provide some information regarding the current level of truck traffic on the road off of which the proposed transload facility is located. (See Lampwrights Reply to Preston/Marchiori Pets. 7, Mar. 20, 2026.) However, Lampwrights provides no information regarding the anticipated increase in truck traffic that will result from its transloading operations.

Additional information is needed to determine whether the relevant thresholds under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i)(C) will be exceeded. Accordingly, Lampwrights will be directed to

¹ Petitions were filed by Grace J. Preston, Stephen C. Preston, Sandra Preston, Sarah J. Preston, Dessie F. Preston, Charles Marchiori, Rebekka L. Dean, Joshua Dean, and Natalie Fortunato.

² Under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(b)(4)(i), an environmental assessment will normally be prepared for operational changes that would exceed any of the thresholds in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) (4) or (5). 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i)(C) establishes a threshold of “[a]n average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment.”

Several other petitions express concern about a potential increase in truck traffic, not to argue that it may require environmental review but that it would have negative safety and environmental effects that should weigh against granting the exemption. (E.g., Sarah Preston Pet. 2, Mar. 11, 2026.)

file a supplement to its verified notice of exemption providing the information necessary to determine whether the thresholds under 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i)(C) will be exceeded as a result of the proposed operations.

The effective date of the exemption will be postponed until further order of the Board. The petitions to reject and/or revoke the notice will be addressed in a subsequent decision. The requests to stay the proceeding will be denied as moot given that the effective date of the exemption is being postponed.

It is ordered:

1. Lampwrights is directed to provide the information necessary to determine whether the thresholds under 49 C.F.R. § 1150.7(e)(5)(i)(C) will be exceeded as a result of the proposed transaction.
2. The effective date of the exemption is postponed until further order of the Board.
3. Requests to stay the effective date of the exemption are denied as moot.
4. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.