



Jill M. Rugema  
General Attorney

BNSF Railway Company  
Law Department  
P.O. Box 961039  
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039  
  
2500 Lou Menk Drive, AOB-3  
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828  
(817) 352-2359  
(817) 352-2398  
Jill.Rugema@bnsf.com

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

306842

July 14, 2023

Ms. Cynthia Brown, Chief  
Section of Administration Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
July 14, 2023  
Part of  
Public Record

**RE: Docket No. NOR 42178, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC – Ex Parte Petition for  
Emergency Service Order**

Dear Ms. Brown,

BNSF respectfully submits the attached data for the week ending July 12, 2023 in accordance with the Board's June 23, 2023 decision in the above-referenced proceeding.

BNSF provides the following information to the Board related to BNSF's service.

**Reporting Period**

As indicated in previous reports, BNSF defines a week as running from each Thursday to Wednesday of the following week. For this report, the backward-looking data includes traffic moving between Thursday, July 6, 2023, and Wednesday, July 12, 2023 and the forward-looking data includes traffic expected to move between Thursday, July 13, 2023, and Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

**Factors Impacting Capacity and Cycle Times**

BNSF addressed in its two prior reports the collapse of a Montana Rail Link bridge along the route used by NTEC and other export coal shippers. The collapsed MRL bridge remains out of service and continues to reduce the overall rail network capacity available for BNSF's transportation of export coal and other commodities as both loaded and empty trains must follow detour routes. In an effort to minimize impacts to our customers, including NTEC, we have added locomotives to our existing fleet in the Northern Region and were able to reach an agreement with MRL and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) that allows MRL crews to temporarily operate detoured BNSF trains. Last week, BNSF noted the increase in the average cycle times for both empty and loaded coal sets moving over the detour route compared to the period before the bridge collapsed. Based on most up-to-date information available to BNSF, the bridge will be out of service through the end of July. It remains unclear how MRL's efforts to restore the bridge will impact BNSF's capacity to transport certain weekly or monthly volumes for NTEC going forward, but we will keep NTEC and the Board updated as BNSF learns more information.

BNSF has recently experienced delays in unloading coal at Westshore due to Westshore reducing the slot capacity made available to BNSF. It is BNSF's understanding that two factors outside of BNSF's control have driven that decision by Westshore. First, an increased volume of high moisture metallurgical coal has been transported to Westshore by CN and CPKC as a result of strikes at other Canadian ports. Second, that high moisture coal has caused clogging issues with the unloading chutes at Westshore. This has resulted in BNSF losing six (6) unloading slots at Westshore since the beginning of July.

The negative capacity impacts referenced herein have increased cycle times and impacted the volume of coal BNSF is able to move to Westshore. Last week BNSF projected 6 NTEC export coal trains leaving Spring Creek Mine between July 6, 2023 and July 12, 2023; BNSF's actual traffic level for this period was 4 NTEC export coal trains.

#### **Efforts to Hire Additional Crews**

BNSF continues to aggressively seek to add new employees in the Pacific Northwest. BNSF also continues to incentivize relocation of employees from other parts of its network. BNSF continues to have five (5) employees temporarily relocated to Everett, Washington. Six (6) Everett-based conductors have graduated since the beginning of July. As of the time of this report, BNSF anticipates that three (3) conductors and thirteen (13) engineers finishing training by the end of July will join the Everett crew base. BNSF addressed new Canadian hours of service restrictions in its last bi-weekly update on crews. BNSF continues to review and adjust our hiring plan to ensure we have sufficient available crews to move traffic into Canada.

#### **Efforts to Acquire Additional Trainsets**

BNSF continues to monitor the number of trainsets in service to Westshore Terminal and evaluate whether adding additional trainsets will improve service levels to NTEC and BNSF's other export customers. As reported on June 30<sup>th</sup>, based on current operating conditions – specifically the MRL bridge outage and the situation at Westshore – BNSF does not believe that adding trainsets at this time will increase service levels to its export coal customers.

Relatedly, the price of export coal has declined significantly in recent months, potentially resulting in significantly reduced market demand for coal moving to Westshore Terminals for export. BNSF remains in close communication with our export customers in light of the changing export market conditions to understand forward looking demand and ensure BNSF has the resources required to meet that demand.

Sincerely,



Jill Rugema  
General Attorney

Attachment

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on July 14, 2023, I served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding.



---

Jill Rugema

# REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE



NTEC *Ex Parte* Pet. For Emergency Svc. Order (NOR 42178)

Reporting Period: 7/6/2023 through 7/12/2023

---



# REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

NTEC Trains from Spring Creek Mine to Westshore Terminals July 6, 2023 through July 12, 2023

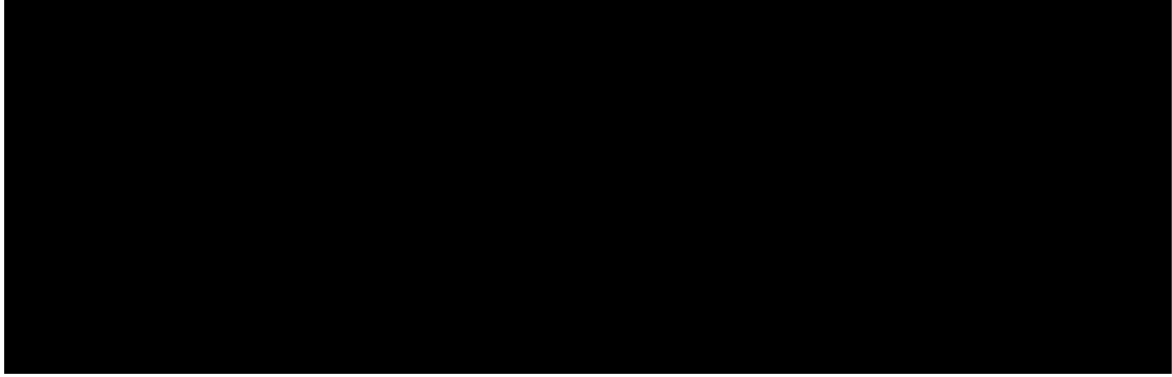


# REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

|                                                                                        |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Other NTEC Traffic Originating at Spring Creek Mine July 6, 2023 through July 12, 2023 |  |
|                                                                                        |  |

# REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

Non-NTEC Export Coal Traffic Moving to Westshore July 6, 2023 through July 12, 2023



# REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

Daily Trainsets Deployed from Spring Creek Mine July 6, 2023 through July 12, 2023



# REDACTED - TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC FILE

Everett, WA Available TY&E Crews

