

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. 706 (Sub-No. 1)

2025 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR
POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL EXPENSES AND INVESTMENTS

Digest:¹ The Board is waiving, at this time, the requirement that Class I carriers file supplemental Positive Train Control reporting at the same time they file their 2025 annual R-1 reports.

Decided: January 29, 2026

In 2013, in Docket No. EP 706, the Board adopted a final rule requiring Class I carriers to file certain data related to Positive Train Control (PTC) expenses in a supplement included with their annual R-1 reports filed with the Board (PTC Supplement). Reporting Requirements for Positive Train Control Expenses & Invs., EP 706, slip op. at 3-4 (STB served Aug. 14, 2013). The PTC Supplement requirement is codified at 49 C.F.R. § 1241.11(b). Under the Board's regulations, each Class I carrier must file its R-1 report, including its PTC Supplement, by March 31 of the year following the year being reported. 49 C.F.R. § 1241.11.

On August 26, 2024, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) filed a petition to reopen Docket No. EP 706 and terminate the PTC Supplement requirement. AAR stated that, when the railroads requested that the Board adopt supplemental PTC reporting more than a decade ago, PTC-related capital costs and operating expenditures were “anticipated to be particularly high during the installation stage.” AAR Pet. 1, Reporting Requirements, EP 706. But AAR argued that, since that time, “the vast majority of costs associated with implementing PTC have been dispensed with,” and that the PTC Supplement requirement is no longer necessary. Id. at 4. Additionally, AAR argued that Class I railroads are “incurring unnecessary costs and expending significant time” to comply with the PTC-related reporting requirements. Id.

On September 30, 2025, the Board issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in Docket No. EP 787 that, among other things, proposed eliminating the PTC Supplement. Updating Class I Rail Carrier Reporting Requirements, EP 787 (STB served Sept. 30, 2025). That same day, given the NPRM issued in Docket No. EP 787, the Board denied as moot AAR's petition to reopen Docket No. EP 706. Parties in Docket No. EP 787 have since submitted

¹ The digest constitutes no part of the decision of the Board but has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It may not be cited to or relied upon as precedent. See Pol'y Statement on Plain Language Digs. in Decisions, EP 696 (STB served Sept. 2, 2010).

comments and replies on the Board's proposed rule, including arguments related to the proposed elimination of the PTC Supplement.

In light of the Board's ongoing review of the comments and replies in Docket No. EP 787, and the carrier resources necessary to comply with the PTC Supplement requirement, the Board will, at this time, waive the requirement in 49 C.F.R. § 1241.11(b) that carriers submit PTC Supplements with their R-1 annual reports for 2025, which are due March 31, 2026. The Board, in a subsequent decision in Docket No. EP 787, will address the need, if any, for carriers to file 2025 PTC Supplements at a later date.

It is ordered:

1. The Board waives the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1241.11(b) as discussed above. Class I carriers are, at this time, not required to file PTC Supplements with their 2025 R-1 reports.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Board Members Fuchs, Hedlund, and Schultz.