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NATIONAL COAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

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Thomas C. Canter
Executive Director

January 17, 2005

BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION and U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 711
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: Ex Parte No. 558 (Sub-No.8), Railroad Cost of Capital

Dear Secretary Williams:

This is the notice of intent of the National Coal Transportation Association ("NCTA") to participate in the proceeding referenced above and this notice is in response to the Board's decision served December 20, 2004.

NCTA desires to reserve the right to file a statement by April 25, 2005, as a possible response to the submission of the railroads due by March 28, 2005. NCTA desires to receive copies of any submissions made by other parties to the Board as well as the Board releases regarding this proceeding.

Please contact the undersigned if there should be questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas C. Canter
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ENTERED
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