

STB VOTING CONFERENCE
August 11, 2004
10:00 a.m., Board Hearing Room

CHAIRMAN NOBER'S OPENING STATEMENT:

I want to thank you all for coming. This is our second voting conference this summer. As you can tell from the number of hearings and voting conferences that we have held, and that are scheduled in the coming months, we have quite an active docket.

Our docket this morning, however, is a little less full because we postponed the hearing on the expedited abandonment procedures for small railroads that had been scheduled to take place today. A group of labor organizations asked for the delay so that they would have the opportunity to express their views at the hearing. To make sure that all interested parties had an opportunity to participate, we granted that request. We'll now have that hearing on August 31.

Even without the hearing, we have quite a bit of business to do at this voting conference. I note that the staff has put in a lot of time and effort to make this voting conference happen. Thanks to them for all their hard work.