§ 1121.2 Discovery.

Discovery shall follow the procedures set forth at 49 CFR part 1114, subpart B. Discovery may begin upon the filing of the petition for exemption or petition for revocation of an exemption. In petitions to revoke an exemption, a party must indicate in the petition whether it is seeking discovery. If it is, the party must file its discovery requests at the same time it files its petition to revoke. Discovery shall be completed 30 days after the petition to revoke is filed. The party seeking discovery may supplement its petition to revoke 45 days after the petition is filed. Replies to the supplemental petition are due 15 days after the supplemental petition is filed.

§ 1121.3 Content.

(a) A party filing a petition for exemption shall provide its case-in-chief, along with its supporting evidence, workpapers, and related documents at the time it files its petition.

(b) A petition must comply with environmental or historic reporting and notice requirements of 49 CFR part 1105, if applicable.

(c) A party seeking revocation of an exemption or a notice of exemption shall provide all of its supporting information at the time it files its petition. Information later obtained through discovery can be submitted in a supplemental petition pursuant to 49 CFR 1121.2.

(d) Transactions imposing interchange commitments.

(1) If a proposed acquisition or operation of a rail line involves a provision or agreement that may limit future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier, whether by outright prohibition, per-car penalty, adjustment in the purchase price or rental, positive economic inducement, or other means (“interchange commitment”), the following additional information must be provided:

   (i) The existence of that provision or agreement and identification of the affected interchange points; and
   (ii) A confidential, complete version of the document(s) containing or addressing that provision or agreement, which may be filed with the Board under 49 CFR 1104.14(a) and will be kept confidential without need for the filing of an accompanying motion for a protective order under 49 CFR 1104.14(b).

(2) To obtain information about an interchange commitment for use in a proceeding before the Board, a shipper or other affected party may be granted access to the confidential documents filed pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this section by filing, and serving upon the petitioner, a “Motion for Access to Confidential Documents,” containing:

   (i) An explanation of the party’s need for the information; and
   (ii) An appropriate draft protective order and confidentiality undertaking(s) that will ensure that the documents are kept confidential.

(3) Deadlines. (i) Replies to a Motion for Access are due within 5 days after the motion is filed.

   (ii) The Board will rule on a Motion for Access within 30 days after the motion is filed.

   (iii) Parties must produce the relevant documents within 5 days of receipt of a Board approved, signed confidentiality agreement.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 78 FR 54590, Sept. 5, 2013, §1121.3 was amended by revising the paragraph heading to paragraph (d), paragraphs (d)(1) introductory text, and (d)(1)(ii), and by adding paragraphs (d)(1)(iii) through (viii), effective Oct. 5, 2013. For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 1121.3 Content.

   * * * * * *

(d) Interchange Commitments. (1) The filing party must certify whether or not a proposed acquisition or operation of a rail line involves a provision or agreement that may limit future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier, whether by outright prohibition, per-car penalty, adjustment in the purchase price or rental, positive economic inducement, or other means (“interchange commitment”). If such a provision exists, the following additional information must be provided (the information in paragraphs (d)(1)(i), (iv), (vii) of this section may be filed with the Board under 49 CFR 1104.14(a) and will be kept confidential without need for the filing of an accompanying motion for a protective order under 49 CFR 1104.14(b)):

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