

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36486 (Sub-No. 11)]

Grainbelt Corporation—Trackage Rights Exemption—BNSF Railway Company

By petition filed on March 31, 2026, Grainbelt Corporation (GNBC) requests that the Board permit the trackage rights granted to it under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) in Docket No. FD 36486 (Sub-No. 10) to expire under the terms agreed to by GNBC and the grantor of the rights, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF).

As explained by GNBC in its verified notice of exemption in Docket No. FD 36486 (Sub-No. 10), GNBC and BNSF entered into an agreement to extend the term of the previously amended, local trackage rights on trackage owned by BNSF between approximately milepost 668.73 in Long, Okla., and approximately milepost 723.30 in Quanah, Tex. (the Line), allowing GNBC to (1) use the Line to access the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association (PCCA) facility near BNSF Chickasha Subdivision milepost 688.6 at Altus, Okla., and (2) operate additional trains on the Line to accommodate the movement of trains transporting BNSF customers' railcars (loaded or empty) located along the Line to unit train facilities on the Line (collectively, the PCCA Trackage Rights). GNBC Verified Notice of Exemption 1–2, 1 n.1, March 31, 2026, *Grainbelt Corp.—Trackage Rts. Exemption—BNSF Ry.*, FD 36486 (Sub-No. 10). According to GNBC, it filed its verified notice of exemption under the Board's trackage rights class exemption at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7), instead of the temporary trackage rights exemption at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(8), because the trackage rights covered by the notice are local rather than overhead. (GNBC Pet. 4.)

In its petition, GNBC asks the Board to partially revoke the exemption as necessary to permit the trackage rights to expire on March 30, 2027, pursuant to the parties' agreement. (*Id.* at 1.) GNBC argues that granting this petition would be consistent with the rail transportation policy at 49 U.S.C. 10101 and with the limited scope of the transaction and would not result in an abuse of market power. (GNBC Pet. 1–2.) In addition, GNBC asserts that the Board has granted similar petitions for partial revocation to permit temporary trackage rights to expire, including petitions involving prior iterations of the trackage rights agreement at issue here. (*Id.* at 5.)

Discussion and Conclusions

Although GNBC and BNSF have expressly agreed on the duration of the proposed PCCA Trackage Rights, trackage rights approved under the class exemption at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) typically remain effective indefinitely, regardless of any contractual provisions. At times, however, the Board has taken action to allow such rights to expire after a limited time rather than lasting in perpetuity, based on the parties' agreement. *See, e.g., Grainbelt Corp.—Trackage Rts. Exemption—BNSF Ry.*, FD 36486 (Sub-No. 9) (STB served June 4, 2025) (allowing trackage rights under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) to expire).

Permitting the trackage rights to expire as agreed to by the parties would eliminate the need for GNBC to separately seek discontinuance authority at a later date, thereby minimizing the need for federal regulatory control (49 U.S.C. 10101(2)), reducing regulatory barriers to entry into and exit from the rail industry (49 U.S.C. 10101(7)), and allowing for the expeditious handling and resolution of this transaction (49 U.S.C. 10101(15)). Moreover, doing so is consistent with the limited scope of the transaction previously exempted.¹ Therefore, the Board will grant the petition and permit the trackage rights exempted in Docket No. FD 36486 (Sub-No. 10) to expire on March 30, 2027.

To provide the statutorily mandated protection to any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of trackage rights, the Board will impose the employee protective conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

This action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c).

It is ordered:

1. GNBC's petition to permit expiration of the trackage rights in Docket No. FD 36486 (Sub-No. 10) per the agreement of the parties is granted.

2. As discussed above, the trackage rights in Docket No. FD 36486 (Sub-No. 10) are permitted to expire on March 30, 2027, subject to the employee protective conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line*.

3. Notice of this decision will be published in the **Federal Register**.

4. This decision is effective on June 4, 2026. Petitions for stay must be filed by May 15, 2026. Petitions for

reconsideration must be filed by May 26, 2026.

Decided: May 1, 2026.

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

Brendetta Jones,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026–08749 Filed 5–4–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**Meeting of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council**

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Act meeting.

SUMMARY: The TVA Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC) will hold a meeting on May 13 and 14, 2026, regarding TVA's natural resources and stewardship matters in the Tennessee Valley.

DATES: The meeting will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee at the TVA Knoxville Office Complex Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. E.T. and Thursday, May 14, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. E.T. RRSC council members are invited to attend the meeting in person. The public is invited to view the meeting virtually or to attend in-person. A one-hour virtual or in-person public listening session will be held May 14, at 9:10 a.m. E.T. A link and instructions to view the meeting will be posted on TVA's RRSC website at www.tva.gov/rrsc at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

ADDRESSES: The public is invited to view the meeting virtually or attend in person. The in-person meeting will be held in the TVA Knoxville Office Complex Auditorium at 400 W Summit Hill Dr. SW, Knoxville, TN 37902. Members of the public are also invited to speak either virtually or in person during a public listening session.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bekim Haliti, bhaliti@tva.gov, 931–349–1894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RRSC is a discretionary advisory committee established under the authority of the TVA in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The meeting agenda includes the following:

Day 1—May 13

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. RRSC and TVA Meeting Update
3. Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update

¹ Because the proposed transaction is of limited scope, the Board need not make a market power finding. *See* 49 U.S.C. 10502(a).