

ASLRRRA to File for Hours of Service Waiver

Pilot Project Launching

ASLRRRA has announced its intention to file for a waiver of the new railroad hours of service rules that become effective on July 16. Concurrent with the filing, which will be on behalf of ASLRRRA member railroads wishing to participate, the Association will launch a pilot program to demonstrate that short line and regional railroads can still provide adequate rest and relief from fatigue.

In a special letter sent June 25, President Rich Timmons acknowledged that, “Many of you have told ASLRRRA that the new hours of service rules are most burdensome for small railroads.” He stated that, “At this time, ASLRRRA is moving forward to present a [waiver] petition to the FRA on behalf of its member railroads who may be affected and wish to participate in the Petition for Waiver. We are in contact with labor organizations to secure their agreement to gain their support of our petition for waiver and are cautiously optimistic that an agreement to move forward jointly can be achieved. Second, we are engaging an expert who will be able to design a pilot program to meet the statutory requirements of demonstrating the benefits to safety and to the railroads to exempt Class 2 and Class 3 railroads from the 6/2 and 7/3 rest requirements and the 276-hour limit for management employees who spend no more than 25 percent of their time in train service activities.”

Mr. Timmons said that ASLRRRA hoped to file the petition by July 2 and asked for executed applications from member railroads wanting to participate by June 30. He advised that further questions about this waiver petition project should be direct to Steve Sullivan (sullivan@aslrra.org, 202-585-3432), Keith Borman (kborman@aslrra.org, 202-585-3448), or Tom Streicher (tstreicher@aslrra.org, 202-585-3434).