



Issue Date: 10 December 2014

CASE NO.: 2013-FRS-00076

IN THE MATTER OF

**PAUL DIONNE,
Complainant**

v.

**GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY,
Respondent**

**DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND DISMISSING COMPLAINT**

The above-captioned matter arises under the employee protection provisions of the Federal Rail Safety Act of 2007 (“FRS”), Title 49 United States Code Section 20109. By letter dated November 25, 2014, the Parties notified the Court that the case had settled and provided a copy of the Confidential Settlement and General Release of Claims for approval.

I first note that the Parties were ably represented by counsel. Further, the Complainant represents his understanding of the agreement’s provisions and the associated rights and obligations. Having reviewed the agreement, I find the provisions are fair, adequate and not contrary to the public interest. The settlement also supports a finding that the complaint be dismissed. Consequently, approval of the agreement is appropriate.

The parties have agreed to keep the specific terms of the agreement confidential, subject to applicable laws. To effectuate such confidentiality, I will have the settlement agreement sealed. However, notwithstanding the parties’ agreement, the parties’ submissions, including the settlement agreement, become part of the record of the case and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a). If a FOIA request is made for the settlement agreement, the U.S. Department of Labor will have to respond and decide whether to exercise its discretion to claim any applicable exemption.

ORDER

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

1. The Settlement Agreement is **APPROVED**;
2. The Complaint is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

So ORDERED.

LARRY W. PRICE
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE