

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Office of Administrative Law Judges  
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Covington, LA 70433



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**Issue Date: 05 June 2013**

**CASE NO.: 2013-FRS-00016**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**B.C. WOODHAM,  
Complainant**

**v.**

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY,  
Respondent**

**ORDER DISMISSING CLAIM BECAUSE COMPLAINANT  
INTENDS TO FILE A COMPLAINT IN THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT**

This proceeding arises from a claim of whistleblower protection under the Federal Rail Safety Act (FRSA), as amended. The statute and implementing regulations provide that a complainant may file a complaint in the United States District Court if the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final decision within 210 days of the filing of a complaint with OSHA, and there is no showing that such delay is due to the bad faith of the complainant. More than 210 days have elapsed since the complaint was filed with the Department of Labor in this case. On May 10, 2013, the Complainant notified the Court that he intended to file a Complaint in United States District Court based on his FRSA claim against the Respondent. On May 14, 2013, I issued an order to the parties to show cause NLT May 30, 2013, why the claim before the Department of Labor should not be dismissed. No party having responded within the allotted time, I find that the claim should be, and hereby is, DISMISSED.

**SO ORDERED.**

**LARRY W. PRICE  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

**NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS:** To appeal, you must file a Petition for Review ("Petition") with the Administrative Review Board ("Board") within ten (10) business days of the date of issuance of the administrative law judge's decision. The Board's address is: Administrative Review Board, U.S. Department of Labor, Suite S-5220, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20210. In addition to filing your Petition for Review with the Board at the foregoing address, an electronic copy of the Petition may be filed by e-mail with the Board, to the attention of the Clerk of the Board, at the following e-mail address: ARB-Correspondence@dol.gov.

Your Petition is considered filed on the date of its postmark, facsimile transmittal, or e-mail communication; but if you file it in person, by hand-delivery or other means, it is filed when the Board receives it. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 1982.110(a). Your Petition must specifically identify the findings, conclusions or orders to which you object. You waive any objections you do not raise specifically. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 1982.110(a).

You must file an original and four copies of the petition for review with the Board, together with one copy of this decision. In addition, within 30 calendar days of filing the petition for review you must file with the Board: (1) an original and four copies of a supporting legal brief of points and authorities, not to exceed thirty double-spaced typed pages, and (2) an appendix (one copy only) consisting of relevant excerpts of the record of the proceedings from which the appeal is taken, upon which you rely in support of your petition for review.

Any response in opposition to a petition for review must be filed with the Board within 30 calendar days from the date of filing of the petitioning party's supporting legal brief of points and authorities. The response in opposition to the petition for review must include: (1) an original and four copies of the responding party's legal brief of points and authorities in opposition to the petition, not to exceed thirty double-spaced typed pages, and (2) an appendix (one copy only) consisting of relevant excerpts of the record of the proceedings from which appeal has been taken, upon which the responding party relies, unless the responding party expressly stipulates in writing to the adequacy of the appendix submitted by the petitioning party.

Upon receipt of a legal brief filed in opposition to a petition for review, the petitioning party may file a reply brief (original and four copies), not to exceed ten double-spaced typed pages, within such time period as may be ordered by the Board.

At the time you file the Petition with the Board, you must serve it on all parties as well as the Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges, 800 K Street, NW, Suite 400-North, Washington, DC 20001-8002. You must also serve the Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and, in cases in which the Assistant Secretary is a party, on the Associate Solicitor for Occupational Safety and Health. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 1982.110(a).

If no Petition is timely filed, the administrative law judge's decision becomes the final order of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §§ 1982.109(e) and 1982.110(a). Even if a Petition is timely filed, the administrative law judge's decision becomes the final order of the Secretary of

Labor unless the Board issues an order within thirty (30) days of the date the Petition is filed notifying the parties that it has accepted the case for review. *See* 29 C.F.R. §§ 1982.110(a) and (b).