



Issue Date: 05 May 2017

CASE NO.: 2016-STA-00045

In the Matter of:

RHONDA BALDWIN,
Complainant,

vs.

TAYLOR MADE EXPRESS,
Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This case was brought by Rhonda Baldwin (“Complainant”) against Taylor Made Express alleging a violation of the whistleblower protection provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, 49 U.S.C. § 31105. On May 11, 2016, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued findings dismissing the complaint. Complainant filed a timely request for a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law Judges and the case was assigned to me. It was scheduled to go to hearing before me on February 27 and 28, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but on February 22, 2017, I vacated the hearing after being informed that the parties had reached a settlement. I ordered the parties to submit the signed settlement agreement for review and approval by March 22, 2017.

On May 1, 2017, Complainant filed an Unopposed Motion to Approve Settlement and Dismiss Proceeding With Prejudice along with an attached signed settlement agreement. Both parties are represented by counsel. Per 29 C.R.R. § 1978.111(d)(2), the parties may settle a case at any time following the filing of objections if the settlement is approved by the adjudicating body with jurisdiction over the case. If the settlement is approved, it becomes the final order of the Secretary. 29 C.F.R. § 1978.111(e). After reviewing the settlement agreement, I find that it appears to be reasonable, adequate and not the result of duress. Accordingly, the settlement agreement is hereby APPROVED.

The parties are ORDERED to implement the terms of the approved settlement agreement which are incorporated by reference into this Decision and Order.

It is specifically ORDERED that:

1. Taylor Made Express shall pay to Complainant, Rhonda Baldwin, and her attorneys, Taylor & Associates, Ltd., the sum of \$5,000.00 in full and complete satisfaction of all

claims, demands, and causes of action that Complainant has or may have against Taylor Made Express, inclusive of all costs.

2. This case is DISMISSED with prejudice.

JENNIFER GEE
Administrative Law Judge