



Issue Date: 22 June 2018

CASE NO.: 2018-STA-00007

In the Matter of:

WILLIAM LAWSON,
Complainant,

v.

PASCHALL TRUCK LINES, INC.,
Respondent.

ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT

The parties in the above-captioned matter have submitted an executed Settlement Agreement and General Release for review. I find that its terms are fair, adequate, and reasonable, and do not contravene the public interest. However, it appears to be a global settlement purporting to dispose of claims in addition to the claim brought under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. My authority to approve the settlement agreement is limited to matters that are before me – that is, to approve the settlement agreement only insofar as it resolves the complaint under the STAA. My approval should not be construed as approval of the resolution of any claims brought under any other federal statute or under state law.

In addition, I construe paragraph 11, stating that the agreement and release "shall be interpreted and enforced under Kentucky law" as not limiting the authority of the Secretary of Labor or any Federal court, which shall be governed in all respects by the laws and regulations of the United States.¹

¹ *Phillips v. Citizens' Ass'n for Sound Energy*, 1991-ERA-025, slip op. at 2 (Sec'y Nov. 4, 1991).

Accordingly, with the construction noted above and limiting my approval to the claim brought under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Settlement Agreement and General Release is APPROVED; and
2. The Complaint is DISMISSED.

SO ORDERED.

PAUL C. JOHNSON, JR.
District Chief Administrative Law Judge

PCJ, Jr./ksw
Newport News, Virginia