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DOCKET# 45045
DOCUMENT# 219239

In re: Sandersville Railroad Company's Petition for Approval to Acquire Real Estate by Condemnation

Docket No. 45045

ORDER SCHEDULING ORAL ARGUMENTS

On April 1, 2024, the Hearing Officer filed his Initial Decision in the above styled matter, approving the Petitioner Sandersville Railroad Company's ("Sandersville") Amended Petition to Acquire Real Estate by Condemnation. Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 50-13-7(a), on April 30, 2024, and May 1, 2024, respectfully, Respondent Property Owners ("Respondents") and Intervenor No Railroads in Our Community Coalition ("NROCC"), filed an application for a Request for Oral Argument as a part of the request for a full review of the Hearing Officer's Initial Decision. On May 22, 2024, Sandersville filed its Brief in Opposition to this request.

Under O.C.G.A. § 50-13-17(a), when a Hearing Officer issues an initial decision, a party has 30 days from the date of notice of the initial decision to request review of the initial decision. On review, the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") can adopt the initial decision, reverse or modify the initial decision, or take other appropriate action. The Commission can include an oral argument as part of the review process, but it is not required to do so.

At the June 13, 2024, Administrative Affairs Committee, the Commission heard from counsel for each party regarding the Request for Oral Arguments. Given the important matter at stake in this full Commission review of the Hearing Officer's Initial Decision in this case, the Commission has determined that oral arguments before the full Commission are appropriate.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13 and in furtherance of the orderly, efficient and expeditious resolution of this matter, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** as follows:

A. The Commission shall hear oral arguments regarding the Hearing Officer's Initial Decision on August 6, 2024, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Administrative Session in the Commission's main hearing room located at 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334.

B. A motion for reconsideration, rehearing, oral argument, or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

C. Jurisdiction over these matters is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as the Hearing Officer or the Commission may deem just and proper.

D. This Order Scheduling Hearing shall be served upon all Parties of record via e-mail and shall constitute Notice to the Parties of the briefing schedule stipulated in this review. Public notice of this schedule shall be given by the Commission on the Commission Calendar posted on the Commission's website.

The above action of the Commission in Administrative Session on 18th day of June 2024.

Sallie Tanner

Executive Secretary

7-3-24

Date

Jason Shaw

Chairman

7-3-24

Date