

# Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the [Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance](#) prior to completing this form

<b>SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD</b>
<b>(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME</b> <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
<b>The National Grain Car Council (NGCC)</b>
<b>(2) AUTHORITY</b> <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
<b>Agency authority, established in 1994 (see 59 Fed. Reg. 60828 (11/28/94), as amended 59 Fed. Reg. 64443 (12/12/94)) and last renewed in 2015 (see 80 Fed. Reg. 57432 (9/23/15)).</b>
<b>(3) MISSION/FUNCTION</b> <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
<b>The Board is both an adjudicatory and a regulatory body, charged with the economic regulation of the railroad industry and related surface transportation, including the transportation of grain. The purpose of the NGCC is to conduct a continuing dialogue to provide advice and guidance to the Board on grain transportation matters and to provide a forum for the informal resolution of disputes and controversies regarding grain transportation.</b>
<b>(4) POINTS OF VIEW</b> <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC, (a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered; (b) consider identifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and (c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>
<b>The NGCC consists of approximately 40 members, excluding the Board's Vice Chairman, who shall serve as ex-officio member of the NGCC. There is a balanced representation of executives knowledgeable in the transportation of grain, including not less than 14 members from the Class I [large] railroads (one marketing and one car management representative from each Class I), 7 representatives from Class II and III carriers, 14 representatives from grain shippers and receivers, and 5 representatives from private car owners and car manufacturers. These members are serving in a representative capacity for this Council.</b>
<b>(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS</b> <i>List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC</i>
<b>In addition, by considering geographical location and size, the agency seeks to maintain diversity among its members that do not represent the Class I railroads.</b>

**(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

*Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should:*

- (a) describe the process*
- (b) identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name)*
- (c) briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and*
- (d) state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable*

**The Chairman of the Board will solicit nominations for the NGCC from appropriate carrier, shipper, grain elevator, car lessor, and consumer organizations and associations. In addition, the Chairman may solicit nominations through the Federal Register. Members of the NGCC shall be selected from the nominees by the Chairman of the Board, with the concurrence of a majority of the members of the Board. Vacancies will be filled by the same process.**

**Members will be invited to serve for a term of two (2) years. Members may serve more than one term.**

**(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE**

*Subcommittees subject to FACA\* should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different*

*\*This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.*

**NGCC subcommittees report to the full committee, not directly to the agency. Therefore, the agency does not require these subcommittees to follow FACA balance requirements.**

**(8) OTHER**

*Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC*

**Not applicable.**

**(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED**

*Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated*

**September 20, 2017.**