



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Timber Rock Railroad reopens trans-load site in East Texas in response to Hurricane Katrina

PITTSBURG, KANSAS – September 2, 2005 – In response to the damaged rail infrastructure caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Timber Rock Railroad (TIBR) will re-open a trans-load site in East Texas to assist shippers.

The trans-load site is located in Silsbee, Texas, on the western edge of the hurricane's destruction. *A map of the area is located on page three.*

Kirk Hawley, Senior Vice President, Marketing, said operations at the site will be based solely on demand to meet Customers needs.

“We want to help shippers get product to the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and we have the resources at this site to do so,” he said. “The trans-load site has a storage yard, loading dock and covered storage. It also has the capacity to move 400 railcars.”

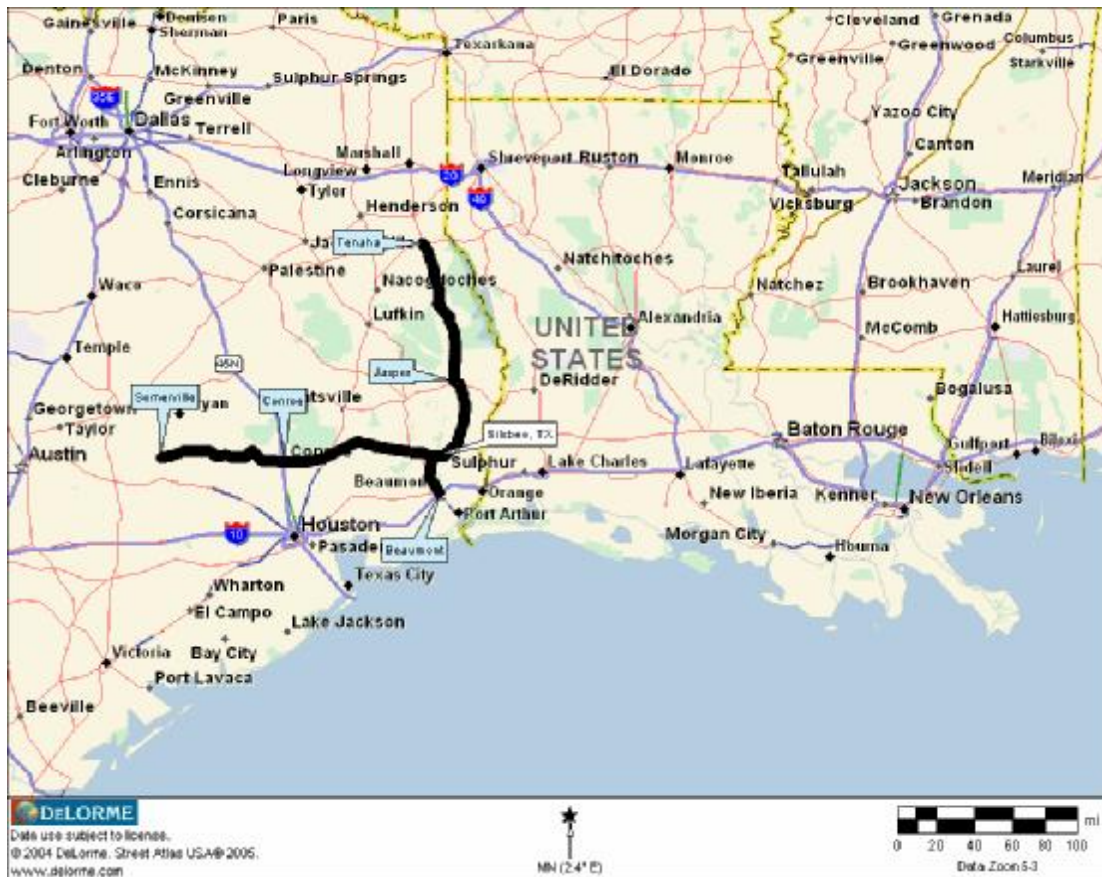
Hawley said the trans-load site will be available for 24-hour service to provide resources if demand requires.

For service information, contact Kirk Hawley at (620)-231-2230 or Amy Parady, Marketing Manager, at (409)-383-4165.

Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), a Pittsburg, Kansas, based company, operates the Timber Rock Railroad and 12 other short line railroads in 13 states. In addition to the TIBR, Watco operates the Appalachian and Ohio, Eastern Idaho, Great Northwest, Kansas and Oklahoma, Kaw River, Mission Mountain, Mississippi Southern, Palouse River and Coulee City, Pennsylvania Southwestern, South Kansas and Oklahoma,

Stillwater Central and Yellowstone Valley Railroads. Watco also operates industrial switching locations and mechanical and locomotive shops across the United States. More information about Watco can be found on their website at www.watcocompanies.com

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Shipments via BNSF that cannot be reached by rail due to hurricane damage can be trans-loaded in Silsbee, TX on the Timber Rock Railroad, outlined in black above.

