

E0-920



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

May 13, 2008

Mr. Ron His Horse Is Thunder, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building 1 North Standing Rock Avenue
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

**Re: Finance Docket No. 33407, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Construction into the Powder River Basin**

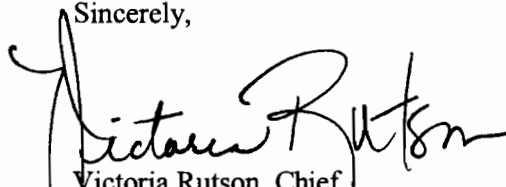
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to follow up on my March 7, 2008 letter to you (copy attached) regarding establishing government-to-government consultations between your tribe and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation's Construction into the Powder River Basin Expansion Project (project). As Chief of STB's Section of Environmental Analysis, I would like to reaffirm my agency's interest in meeting with you and the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association (GPTCA) member tribes. Catherine Glidden, SEA's environmental manager for this project, will be contacting you by telephone to inquire how STB can best facilitate a meeting between GPTCA and the STB.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about our agency or the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-245-0295 (Rutsosnv@stb.dot.gov) or Ms. Glidden at 202-245-0293 (Gliddenc@stb.dot.gov).

We look forward to meeting with you soon and establishing appropriate consultations with you and other GPTCA member tribes.

Sincerely,


Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Cc: Tim Mentz, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, THPO
Herb Jones, DM&E
David Bibler, Louis Berger Group
Michael Madson, HDR Engineering, Inc.



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Section of Environmental Analysis

EC-620
CC

March 7, 2008

Ron His Horse Is Thunder, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building 1 North Standing Rock Avenue
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Re: Finance Docket No. 33407, Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Construction into the Powder River Basin

Dear Chairman Ron His Horse Is Thunder:

Thank you for your letter requesting government-to-government consultations with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation Construction into the Powder River Basin project (project). We gladly accept your invitation to consult with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST), both through our continued interactions with your Tribal Historic Preservation Officer as well as with you and other members of the SRST leadership.

As you know, we are currently in the process of finalizing a Work Plan for Tribal Involvement (Plan) that will memorialize certain agreed upon measures for Tribal involvement in the project. As you note in your letter, the Plan includes the development of an Office of Tribal Involvement (OTI). It is anticipated that the OTI would act in advisory capacity to Tribes currently participating in this project through the coordination of report reviews, contracting of field work, and other duties, as needed. In your letter you recommend that the STB facilitate a meeting with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association (GPTCA) in part, to discuss the involvement of the GPTCA in the development of the OTI. We would be happy to meet with the GPTCA regarding the OTI and to establish consultations with the GPTCA member Tribes.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-245-0295 (Rutsonv@stb.dot.gov) or Catherine Glidden of my staff at 202-245-0293 (Gliddenc@stb.dot.gov). Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis