

EO-1910

STB Decision Reached in Tongue River Railroad Case, FD 30186 - Resend
Catherine Glidden

to:

cvaughn, johnmurray, Scott.castleberry, barbara.ranf, sfindlay, dlanders, d1melton, MSant, dana.dupris, Inthewoods, steve.vance, lgray, wandawells, williams, burtonpot, richardwc, lisa.baete, fjackson005, jb.weston, curley_up, clairsgreen, lowersioux, mission, laxline, swilmoth, betsy_merritt, honor_keeler, narapahothpo_2009, steve.brady, conrad.fisher, joe.foxjr, Yulberton, leroy.sprang, rose, wanapeyanajica, ostnrrathpo, rstthpo, reaglebear, brhodd1, rickthomas_06, culturalresources, dyandancer, tamara.stjohn, jmswhitted, tclouthier, wyong, David Coburn, pcoffey, redhawk, joel.o.ames, shannon.l.johnson, Matthew.T.Mccullor, Todd.N.Tillinger, James.L.Winters, marlow, gravatlana, ghubbz_

06/20/2012 11:36 AM

Cc:

BlodgettK, Danielle Gosselin, Virginia Strasser, David Coburn, kitayE, RutsonV, rwithrow

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2 Attachments



I understand that some of you could not see the text to this message when I first sent it out. I am therefore resending it in hopes that this time will be the cure! Sorry for the inconvenience.

Dear Consulting Parties:

On June 18, 2012, the Surface Transportation Board issued a decision in the Tongue River Railroad proceeding (FD 30186) in response to several changed circumstances, including the December 2011 decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Attached below is the Board's decision as well as a press release announcing issuance of the decision.

In summary, the Board's decision dismisses the proceedings in Tongue River II (FD 30186 (Sub-No. 2)) and Tongue River III (FD 30186 Sub-No. 3)). The environmental reviews in these proceedings were partially remanded by the Ninth Circuit, and the new owners of the Tongue River Railroad Company (TRRC) have announced that they have no plans to construct the rail lines analyzed in

Tongue River II and III. The Board is requiring TRRC to submit a revised application in FD 30186, Tongue River I, that details TRRC's new proposal to build a rail line between Miles City and Ashland. The Board will be conducting a new environmental review of TRRC's revised plan in Tongue River I.

The Board's environmental review process will begin with issuance of a Notice of Intent to prepare a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Tongue I. Soon thereafter, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will hold scoping meetings to seek input on its new EIS. The scoping meetings will be open to all members of the public. In addition, OEA will hold a separate Section 106 consulting party meeting to seek input from tribes and other consulting parties regarding Tongue I.

We will be in touch with you as further details unfold, and look forward to working closely with you.

-Cathy

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