



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Office of the Chairman

March 10, 2014

The Honorable Llevando Fisher, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Dear President Fisher:

I received your letter dated February 13, 2014, which was read into the record during the recent meeting in Billings, Montana, held by the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis to discuss issues of importance to the Tribes and Cultural Resource Consulting Parties regarding the Tongue River Railroad proposal currently pending before the Board. The proceeding is docketed as Docket No. FD 30186, *Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. — Rail Construction and Operation — In Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Mont.* In your letter, you explain that, under your Administration, Northern Cheyenne tribal members will have the opportunity to vote in a referendum to decide whether to support or oppose the issue of coal development on the Northern Cheyenne reservation.

Thank you for sharing your views and for informing the Board about the referendum vote. Your letter, along with this response, will be made a part of the public docket. Because the case is pending before the Board, we are unable to comment further on the matter at this time.

Victoria Rutson and Catherine Nadals, both with the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis, will continue working with you and representatives from the Northern Cheyenne. Please do not hesitate to contact Victoria Rutson, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis, at 202-245-0295 or Victoria.Rutson@stb.dot.gov should you need further help on this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman