



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-2159
JR

Office of Environmental Analysis

August 28, 2013

Winona LaDuke
Honor the Earth
P.O. Box 63
Callaway, MN 56521

Re: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. —
Rail Construction and Operation — In Custer, Powder River and
Rosebud Counties, Mont.

Dear Ms. LaDuke:

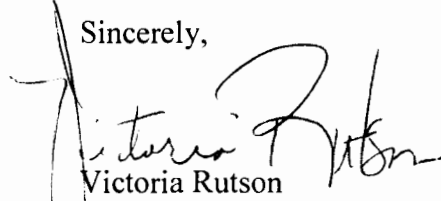
Your petition entitled "Protect the Cheyenne Ancestral Homeland" has been received at the Surface Transportation Board (Board). I understand that the petition is sent on behalf of Honor the Earth to reflect environmental concerns of that group to a case that is pending at the Board: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. — Rail Construction and Operation — In Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Mont. I am writing to let you know that the petition has arrived, how we are handling it, and how it will be considered in the Board's environmental review process in the Tongue River Railroad proceeding.

My office—the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA)—is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the railroad's proposal. We will enter the petition into the Board's publically accessible environmental correspondence tracking system, which may be accessed online at www.stb.dot.gov. The petition will be filed under Environmental Correspondence received by the Board (hyperlink for this docket added for your convenience).

The concerns raised by Honor the Earth in the petition are important to us and will be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. We are in the process of gathering information and environmental data, so it is likely to be several months before we issue the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. When that occurs, we will send you a copy of the document (likely on CD). In addition, we will update the entry for the Protect the Cheyenne Ancestral Homeland petition periodically to reflect the number of petitions received here at the Board. To allow us to track the numbers of persons adding their names to the petition, I would appreciate it if you could arrange to have the email notifications of additional signers sent directly to OEA at waylandj@stb.dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental review process. For additional information about the project, please visit OEA's project web site for the Tongue River Environmental Impact Statement at <http://www.tonguerivereis.com>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson", is written over the printed name.

Victoria Rutson

Director,

Office of Environmental Analysis