

From: William Walksalong <william.walksalong@cheyennenation.com>
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 5:19 PM
To: Mello, Sarah
Cc: 'President Fisher'; 'Brian Chestnut'
Subject: RE: Comment Period Extended For Tongue River Railroad Draft
Environmental Impact Statement

Sarah:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal President, Llevando Fisher, in a May 12, 2015 letter to Victoria Rutson, Director of the Surface Transportation Board (STB), requested a 120 day extension on the June 23, 2015 deadline set for public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Tongue River Railroad (TRR). Your e-mail indicates a sixty (60) day extension has been granted by the STB. With this notice is the Northern Cheyenne Tribal President's request for a 120 day extension no longer under consideration? Does the STB's process allow our Tribe's formal request to be considered? Our Tribe has been granted a 120 day extension to submit comments for the proposed Otter Creek Mine project under the jurisdiction of Montana's Department of Environmental Quality. This is the primary justification for the 120 day extension to the STB. Our Tribe's agencies involved in submitting comments on the technical aspects of both the Draft EIS for the TRR and the proposed Otter Creek Mine has resulted in additional resources being allocated to these two major energy related projects that may have significant and lasting impacts on the Northern Cheyenne people and our lands. Please provide this office with a response to this inquiry. I am the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Administrator that provides technical assistance and administrative support to President Llevando Fisher. Thank you for your time and consideration to this inquiry.

William Walks Along, Tribal Administrator
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Administration

From: Mello, Sarah [mailto:Sarah.Mello@icfi.com]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Mello, Sarah
Subject: Comment Period Extended For Tongue River Railroad Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Reader:

On April 17, 2015, the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed construction and operation of the Tongue River Railroad in Southeastern Montana. Originally, a 60-day comment period was established and would conclude on June 23, 2015. After receiving many requests for an extension of the public comment period, OEA has decided to extend the public comment period an additional 60 days in order to give the public and interested parties additional time to read and comment on the Draft EIS. The extended public comment period

will now end on August 24, 2015. All comments must be received or postmarked by August 24, 2015. Comments that have been previously submitted do not need to be resubmitted.

How to View the Draft EIS: The Draft EIS is available for viewing and downloading via the Board's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, under "E-Library," then under "Decisions & Notices," beneath the date "04/17/15." The Draft EIS is also available on the Board-sponsored project website at <http://www.tonguerivereis.com>.

Comment Period: The public and any interested parties are encouraged to make written comments on all aspects of this Draft EIS. All comments must be received or postmarked within the comment period, which will close on August 24, 2015. Please refer to Docket No. FD 30186 in all correspondence addressed to the Board.

Written comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to:

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423
ATTN: Office of Environmental Analysis
Docket No. 30186

Comments may also be submitted electronically on the project website, www.tonguerivereis.com.

Public Meetings: OEA will host 10 public meetings on this Draft EIS during which interested parties may make oral comments in a formal setting and/or submit written comments. A court reporter will be present to record these oral comments. Meetings will be held at the following locations, dates, and times:

- June 8, 2015, 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at St. Labre Indian School, 1000 Tongue River Road, Ashland, MT
- June 9, 2015, 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at Miles Community College, Room 316, 2715 Dickinson Street, Miles City, MT
- June 10, 2015, 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at Colstrip High School, 5000 Pinebutte Drive, Colstrip, MT
- June 11, 2015, 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Building, Council Chambers, 600 South Cheyenne Ave, Lame Deer, MT
- June 12, 2015, 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at Forsyth High School, 917 Park Street, Forsyth, MT

OEA will also host two online public meetings. All interested individuals must register to attend the online public meeting and to provide formal comments. Individuals may register by visiting www.tonguerivereis.com. The online public meetings will be held on the following date and times:

- June 17, 2015, 12:00-3:00 pm and 6:00-9:00 pm (Eastern Time).

All meeting transcripts will be available on the project website after the meetings. For additional information, please call the project hotline at 1-866-622-4355 or visit www.tonguerivereis.com. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to receiving your comments.