

EI - 19541

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

Atten: Ken Blodgett:

We are writing concerning the scoping process currently underway regarding the proposed Tongue River Railroad and potential Colstrip Alternative. We are asking to be listed as a party of record with an interest in this issue.

We have lived on Rosebud Creek on Section 25, 1N, 42E since 1959. Joe was born and raised on SW4 of Section 19, 1N, 43E which we now own. This has been a nice quiet place to live all these years while investing 82 years of time and money raising cattle and improving the soil. A railroad through this area would certainly disrupt our lifestyle.

We have a few questions that need to be addressed:

- 1. According to the map we have received from HDR Engineering, Inc., the area where they would cross our meadow and the Rosebud Creek would need to have a fill across it. Where do they propose to get the fill dirt?**
- 2. This area of Rosebud Creek can get pretty wild in the spring run-off. It floods quite often. What would Burlington Northern do to prevent the water from backing up and flooding and souring our meadows?**
- 3. This railroad would cut some of our pasture in two thereby leaving one parcel without water. Who is going to pay to have a well drilled and a pump and tanks installed?**
- 4. This railroad would have to be fenced. Who would pay for that and who would maintain the fence?**
- 5. The county road would be crossed by the railroad. It is a gravel road and is heavily traveled by workers at all hours and also by the school bus. Quite often, this valley gets so dusty that a person can hardly breath and visibility is limited. Would the railroad be willing to install a crossing with bars, bells and lights for the safety of all using the road?**

We would like to go on record as opposing the Tongue River Railroad and the Potential Colstrip Alternative regardless of the route chosen and also mining of the Otter Creek/Ashland area. We do not feel it is in the best interest of the people of Montana. Therefore, we are urging the Surface Transportation Board to accept the NO ACTION alternative.

Sincerely,

Joe W. Curran
Helen E. Curran

Joe & Helen Curran
3469 Rosebud Creek Road
Forsyth, MT 59327