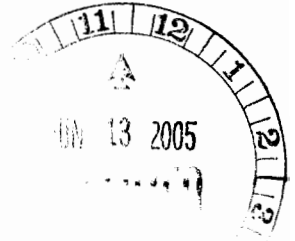


EI-1541
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June 5, 2005

Victoria Rutson
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street
Washington DC 20413-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket #33407 Dakota Minnesota and Eastern Railroad
Corporation Construction into the Powder River Basin Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact
Statement Comments

In the section of the SDEIS dealing with the air quality impacts of the movement of a substantial quality of coal from the PWB to utilities by the DM&E you have found that it is not likely that there will air quality impact because there will not be a substantial amount of new coal introduced in to the markets. You do concede that it is possible that individual areas will be impacted but not the overall air quality.

This conclusion simply ignores the SEA material in the EIS and the STB findings. Reviewing the original submissions by the DM&E and the EIS it is clear that the DM&E has premised its project on finding new markets for coal, this would, in large part, be due to increased use of PWB coal to comply with air quality regulations. This finding of no impact on existing haulers from the PWB was fundamental to fulfill the requirement that the introduction of this new competitor to the market place not have a deleterious impact on those railroads. This is particularly significant because the competitors in public reports on their income clearly show that absent earnings from the PWB they would not be profitable. The specter of two major intercontinental haulers falling back into unprofitable status clearly is not in the best interests of the county and is a situation that the STB is charged with preventing.

We suggest that either the original conclusion was in error and thus needs to be addressed in amended findings or your conclusion in the SDEIS needs to be reviewed.

Respectfully

Gael Entrikin

Raymond Schmitz