

Henry L. Coffin

EI-19064

PO Box 34

Ashland, MT 59003

Comments & Questions

regarding the proposed Tongue River Railroad

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Addressed to the MT DOT Surface Transportation Board

November 14, 2012

1. My 32.85 acres is worth \$12,000,000 or \$4,000,000 per tract which is \$365,297 per acre.

Q: What is the dollar amount that my property will be devalued to as a result of the building of the Tongue River Railroad on my property?

2. The water well on my property has been tested as 100% clean. It artesiates to within 50 feet of the land surface.

Q: How will the building of the Tongue River Railroad affect my well and the quality of the water?

3. The average decibel level on my property for sounds is normally between 10 -20.

Q: How many decibels will the Tongue River Railroad raise the average volume of sounds to on my property?

4. The air quality on my property is considered to be pristine.

Q: How detrimental will the Tongue River Railroad be to that pristine air quality standard?

5. I have an appurtenant easement from my property to the East Tongue River Road.

Q: How will the Tongue River Railroad affect my access to the East Tongue River Road?

6. There are two canyons on my property densely populated with ponderosa pine trees, choke cherry bushes, wild rose bushes and various other kinds of brush which provide habitat for numerous wild animals, reptiles and fowl. Neither of these canyons were affected by the Ash Creek Fire of 2012.

Q: What will the Tongue River Railroad do to this natural habitat area and refuge for all the wild animals, reptiles and fowl?

7. Over the last 27 years or so, at various times and seasons, my family and I have witnessed the following wild animals, reptiles and fowl either passing through or living on our property in various places not limited to but including the established dens and caves in the two canyons: antelope, bald eagles, bats, black bears, blue racers, bobcats, bull snakes, chicken hawks, chipmunks, coyotes, cross beaks, elk, foxes, golden eagles, grouse, horned owls, killdeer, meadowlarks, moles, mountain blue birds, mountain lions, mule deer, porcupine, prairie dogs, rabbits, raccoons, rattle snakes, red squirrels, ring-necked pheasants, robins, skunks, spotted eagles, spotted owls, timber wolves, turkeys, vultures, whitetail deer and woodpeckers to name a few.

Q: How will the wild animals, reptiles and fowl frequenting or residing on my property be affected?

Q: Will you make an effort to relocate and establish them to an acceptable like-habitat?

8. Most of my property is about 500 feet above the Tongue River with several ledges and cliffs.

Q: What will the degree of the angle of the slope be on my property when Tongue River Railroad makes the cuts in the land for the Tongue River Railroad to be built?

Q: Will that degree of angle keep the top of my property from eroding and washing downhill?

9. According to the map that was included with the letter sent me by the HDR Engineering office, it appears the proposed Tongue River Railroad intends to cross my property a few feet behind some shop buildings I still currently use and just a little farther from my home which I currently live in.

Q: How will you secure my buildings and my home; so they are not damaged in the process of the construction of the proposed Tongue River Railroad or in the passing of trains over the proposed Tongue River Railroad?

10. I own the mineral and water rights on my property and am aware that methane gas exists beneath the surface of my property.

Q: What is your proposed plan of action should any methane gas leak during the construction of the proposed Tongue River Railroad across my property?

Q: Will you compensate me for the loss of methane gas at the current price I would receive if I allowed a well to be established on my property?

11. Presently, my underground phone line works well.

Q: Will you pay for the relocation and re-installation of our phone so we do not have a loss or lapse of phone and internet service?

12. Presently, our electric lines are above ground and work well. We also have a switch installed on the pole after the meter so that we can plug our generator into that in case of an extended electrical outage.

Q: Will you pay for the relocation, re-installation and re-connection of our electrical lines and poles; so we do not have a loss or lapse of electrical service to any of my buildings and my home?

13. I am a ham radio operator with repeaters.

Q: Will you guarantee that any radio wave transmissions sent during the proposed Tongue River Railroad construction and when the trains run will not inter-mod with the radio wave frequencies assigned to me by the FCC?

14. I have several horses and dogs.

Q: Will you recompense me for any of their loss of life or their veterinary bills should they be injured during or due to the construction of the proposed Tongue River Railroad and or the running of the trains on those tracks?

15. Common sense tells me that there will be a great increase of waves of vibration felt on my property, in my existing buildings, in the pipes to my well, in the pipes to the pump in my well several hundred feet below ground level, in the well itself, in the pipes to my septic tank and drain field, the drain field itself and in my home.

Q: How will you compensate me for the loss of integrity of any of my existing buildings, in the pipes to my well, in the pipes to the pump in my well several hundred feet below ground level, the well itself, in the pipes to my septic tank and drain field, the drain field itself and in my home?

16. My appurtenant easement connects my property to the East Tongue River Road.

Q: Where will the Tongue River Railroad Company install the crossing for me to access the East Tongue River Road?

Q: How many minutes at any given time when a train is passing on the proposed Tongue River Railroad will I be detained from crossing the tracks?

17. It is my understanding that the destination of the coal to be transported on the proposed Tongue River Railroad is China.

Q: Why is the coal not remaining within Montana or the USA to be used by legal citizens of the USA?

18. There is a supposed Revised Application for Construction and Operation for the proposed Tongue River Railroad before the Surface Transportation Board?

Q: Why was the old Application for Construction and Operation for the proposed Tongue River Railroad submitted as though it had been revised?

19. The Montco Mine spur is included in the Revised Application for Construction and Operation for the proposed Tongue River Railroad as Terminus Point # 1. That spur of proposed Tongue River Railroad would affect the existing Knobloch and McKelvey ranches.

Q: Are there plans to mine the coal on the Knobloch and McKelvey ranches?

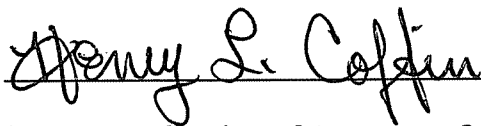
20. The majority of my 32.85 acres is several hundred feet above the Tongue River. HDR Engineering sent me a letter requesting my permission for access to all three of my tracts of land to survey it for the proposed Tongue River Railroad.

Q: Does the Tongue River Railroad intend to use the shale my property contains as a bed to lay the proposed Tongue River Railroad tracks on?

Q: If so, will you compensate me at the current rate for each square yard that you remove from my property?

STATE OF Montana
COUNTY OF Rosebud

In Ashland, on the 14th day of November, 2012, before me, a Notary Public in and for the above state and county, personally appeared Henry L. Coffin, known to me or proved to be the person named in and who executed the foregoing comments and questions addressed to the MT DOT STB, and being first duly sworn, such person acknowledged that he executed said comments and questions for the purposes therein contained as his free and voluntary act and deed.



(signature of author of Comments & Questions, Henry L. Coffin)



LINDA A COMPBER
NOTARY PUBLIC for the
State of Montana
Residing at Ashland, Montana
My Commission Expires
December 20, 2013

(SEAL)



NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 12/20/2013