



CITY OF MILES CITY

17 S. 8th, P.O. Box 910
Miles City, MT 59301-0910

Telephone: 406-234-3462
Fax: 406-234-2903

Feb 25, 2015

Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

Attention: STB Finance Docket No. 30186

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your letter dated January 28, 2015 which requested the City of Miles City to confirm the availability and function of Spotted Eagle Recreation Area and to verify that its primary purpose and function is as a "park".

Spotted Eagle Recreation Area is used year round by residents of Miles City and by tourists visiting Miles City. It provides an excellent fishing opportunity for the youth and elderly individuals year-round. Numerous school (kid's fishing days), and local fisherman and others use the park every day of the year. The local chapter of Walleye's Unlimited have invested significant time and budget in constructing and maintaining improvements they have installed, these vary from a handicapped fishing platform, to planting trees, and constructing scoria covered walking trails. The city has built improvements such as bathrooms, garbage clean up as well as year round, ongoing maintenance. Custer Rod and Gun Club members frequently use the park for their recreational activities.

The water source for Spotted Eagle Recreation Area is the MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks fish hatchery which lies west of the park and the proposed line would lie between the fish hatchery and the park. The proposed TRR line will sever the flow of water to Spotted Eagle causing the lake water to eventually become stale and evaporate leaving the city with a dry pit. The rail line must provide adequate water flow paths under the line so the health and well-being of the reservoir is secured.

The suggestion that TRR will be required to plant a tree/hedge row along the impact zone to Spotted Eagle as it could reduce visual impacts is a good idea on paper but who is responsible for the care and maintenance of the tree line? We feel it may not be a priority for the railroad and as such it may become an added budget and time expense for the city.

The primary function of Spotted Eagle Recreation Area is a community park. It is open daily from 6 am to 10 pm and is a very important attribute to the City of Miles City.

The proposed rail line would provide train traffic potentially heading to the east, which would severely restrict local flow of traffic into and out of Spotted Eagle Recreation Area. Emergency services could be restricted from accessing the recreation area due to the increase in rail traffic

Foot and bicycle traffic into and out of the recreation area will be subject to increased train traffic and safety issues.

We also recommend that TRR consult with the City of Miles City to develop means and concrete plans to offset potential impacts and loss of recreational use at Spotted Eagle,

Per your request the following applies:

1. Spotted Eagle is eligible for Section 4(f) protection.
2. The city has no other section 4 (f) properties that would be affected by the TRR proposal.
3. The proposed TRR de minimus impact finding could be reached with development and implementation of additional impact measures not yet identified.

Respectfully,



Chris A. Grenz, Mayor