

November 17, 2012

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 30186
395 E. Street S. W.
Washington, D. C. 204-0001

My husband Dan and I attended the Tongue River Railroad Hearing in Miles City on Thursday, November 15 and we wish to comment.

You have suggested that we give our thoughts as to how the railroad would impact us, being clear and concise in our suggestions relevant to the project. We would like to give a specific example of why we are opposed to building the railroad. Our clear and concise suggestion is in the word clear.

We live on a hill overlooking the Tongue River Breaks and have a beautiful view to the horizon just in front of the coal fired power plant at Colestrip Montana and most days we see either huge plumes of steam followed by dirty brown clouds moving with the prevailing winds or simply the dirty brown clouds along the horizon. This brown smudge is seen on cloudy days as well as days that are clear, and the horizon to the south west is brown.

Our concern in the continued use of this form of energy and what it is doing to our air quality is something we literally see. We love Montana and we want what is best for all people of the world today and in the future. We question the continued use of coal and what it is doing to our air.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Dan and Peggy Barkemeyer
2167 Tongue River Road
Miles City, Mt. 59301