

Kathy Felton

From: Kathy Felton [farlady@rangeweb.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 11:55 AM
To: farlady@rangeweb.net
Subject: scoping meeting

EI - 19065

**Surface Transportation Board
Washington DC**

**Public Scoping Meeting
St. Labre Indian School, Auditorium
November 14, 2012**

Tongue River Railroad scoping issues that need to be addressed:

QUESTIONS:

If this process begins..

1. How and when will the survey begin...if surveyors are on your property, they need to notify when, where and approximately how long...Will they call and request permission to be on private land? Will they be required to close all gates and be aware of possible livestock? How will you address this?

2. During the construction phase of the building - how will supplies be transported within the area? If there are cattle in the area, possible fences will be removed, access to water could be made unavailable to these animals, how will the construction crews address this situation? There will be alteration to the land around the construction site, for example, packed ground for roads, equipment storage, possible fuel and oil spills, considerable removal of top soil, reclamation of the land around the site with replanting of grasses, removal of hazardous waste, weed control both for the construction time as well as the future... On the proposed route the tracks will be coming quite close to the river, how will the Tongue River be protected from possible increases in sediment that could effect the quality of the water for both irrigation and the fishery? Will this be included in the process...The landowners need a time line as this will be disrupting the pasture quality of the land for cattle. It would be fair to say that this needs to be on an ongoing basis as the construction crews leave your property. Do you have plans for this type of situations?

3. As the railroad will cross our property, we need to know that the cattle crossing will be adequate, numerous, and safe. Access to water is a vital issue...as well as being able to move cattle to and from pastures. If under passes are built, they will need to be adequate for cattle as well as possible equipment to pass thru..If the

crosses are simply drive over, this will create many problems with movement to and from...there is expected many trains to be moving everyday and crossing will become hazardous to both livestock and people. Will there be limits to the number of crossing per properties? Or will you work with each land owner to determine the needs...How will this be met?

4. Having property along a railroad near Springdale, MT...we have first hand knowledge of how one railroad operates. Will the railroad be required to maintain fencing along their corridor...what type of fencing, and if the landowner has to fix fence to protect their cattle, will there be payment made for supplies and labor? If cattle are killed, injured and have to be put down..will payment be made and in a timely manner? Do you have provisions for this in your proposal? Will the crossings, over or under, be maintained adequately to allow passage, for example, snow removal, drifting causing closed passage? Is there provision in the plan to address this?

5. Fire danger is a great concern for us..Railroad traffic can and does start fires due to faulty train equipment, failure to maintain a vegetative free zone along the track... how wide a corridor will be needed, and will the railroad maintain this corridor, keep it free of grasses, weeds and brush? IF a fire starts, will the railroad have equipment to help fight these fires located with each landowner and will they provide help, supplies, water, food to the owners and crews while this fire is being fought? Will there be enough crossings to allow equipment to pass across? Width of these crossings and numbers of crossing will be critical during a fire. IS there a plan to address this issue? Is there compensation planned for the landowner due to loss of pasture, possible hay ground, riparian area along waterways, and livestock loss? Nearly all landowners along this proposed route have private ground this could effect.

6. It is our understanding that in the future the Tongue River Road will be upgraded to paved status... Will the railroad share this corridor with the the road? If so, is provision made so that there will not be a strip of property that will be unusable to the rancher? If there is a need for this strip, the landowner will need to be compensated for this ground. Will there be monies available for this compensation?

7. We have talked to several realtors and they have confirmed that the value of our property will be greatly decreased ... both for the agricultural buyer as well as for the sportsman buyer. We feel that funding needs to be provided to cover this loss, either by wheel fees, tonnage fees, length of passage thru each landowner, some determined way for compensation. Is there a plan for this in place? This will also affect the landowner who is supplementing his income with outfitting. Wildlife will be affected also..again loss of income is an issue...will these landowners be provided some relief?

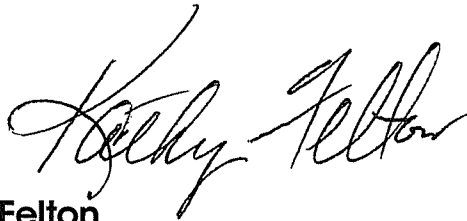
8. During the mining of this coal, water and salt will become an issue. How will the water be discharged, treated for salt, etc? The Tongue river water is at risk now in becoming too salty. This could make matters worse for irrigation and wildlife. Wells and springs could and probably will become impacted from this mining, will provisions be made to address the need for new drilling to provide water for both livestock and human consumption at no cost to the landowner?

9. This railroad is being proposed to haul coal to be shipped overseas..this will not benefit any American ... nor will it help any American business...it is not being mined to benefit this nation with energy... will this railroad help the rancher in moving supplies and cattle to and from town? NO.. The construction may provide a few jobs to some locals, but most activity will be with out of area workers, equipment and providers of services..again, we cannot see the benefit of this railroad...lets leave the coal in the ground for future generations to use if they need it..

10. So is this railroad really necessary? Can the people in Washington understand the needs of the landowners to feed not only their country but much of the world?

11. Please work with the landowners, meet their needs, compensate for their losses both to income and land...

Thank you..

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Felton".

Maurice and Kathy Felton
Felton Angus Ranch, Inc.