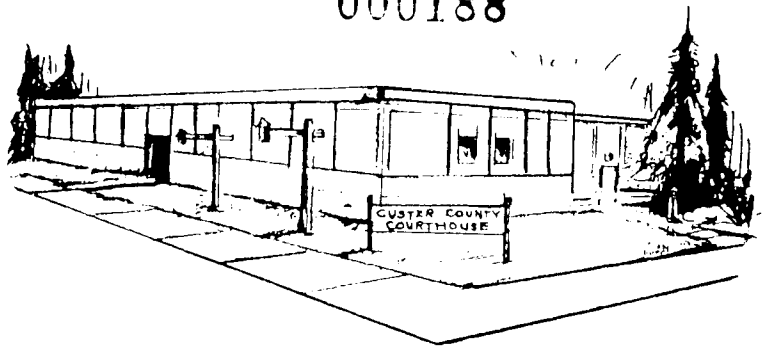


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CUSTER COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners



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420 Mt. Rushmore Road

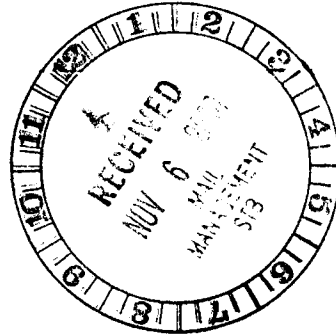
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Custer, South Dakota 57730

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November 1, 2000

Office of the Secretary Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 33407
Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Victoria Rutson
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Dear Victoria,

After receiving a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement for the DM&E Railroad Project, the Board of Custer County Commissioners became aware of the short time frame for verbal and written comments. The Board unanimously agreed to request an extension to the comment periods in order for the affected landowners to have adequate time to respond to their concerns. The Board is well aware of the fact that this could delay the progress of the project, but allowing adequate time for the landowners to voice their concerns could alleviate future concerns and problems.

We once again request your consideration for addressing this problem. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 605-673-8100. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Ken Irwin, Chairman
Custer County Commissioners

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

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