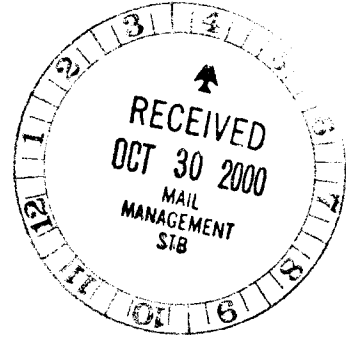


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Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 33047
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



* Attention: Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Manager
Environmental Filing

Dear Ms. Rutson,

I am writing to request your consideration for an extension of the 90 day review time for the STB Finance Docket No. 33407/ EIS Draft.

Since this is a very lengthy document to review and most persons reading this 2000 page document are working citizens trying to read in their spare time, we would ask that there be some consideration given to this matter.

It took a great deal of time for the dEIS to write this lengthy report and so we are sure that you will understand when we say we need a little more time than just 90 days. Plus the fact that this 90 day time frame will fall over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donn Kapers
19989-584th ave
Mankato
MN 56001

FROM THE DESK OF:
DON W. KEEPERS
19989-584TH AVE.
MANKATO, MN.
56001-8318
507-625-6666

To: Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Mg

Ref: DM&E Railroad
South Route around Mankato

I would like to share my thoughts with you on the latest proposal to the DM&E railroad coal train problem we have here at Mankato. The idea of the south route around Mankato would be a disaster to the community and the farming and small business area. It would take up valuable farm land of which we are losing too much every day due to urban expansion.

It would be an invitation to dozens of traffic fatalities due to the fact that there would be at least 20 crossings to be constructed with no guarantee of any safety to the motoring public. Can you imagine what 37 coal trains a day would do to the traffic flow?

There would be no benefit to the farmers or businesses anywhere in the Mankato area or in Minnesota as a whole due to the fact that it is for coal only to be shipped to the Eastern area. We would only be a pathway for them to use and a travesty to the environment.

I urge you to do whatever you can to prevent this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Don W. Keepers

