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Public Record

Elaine K. Kaiser
Chief of Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 33407

Dear Ms. Kaiser:

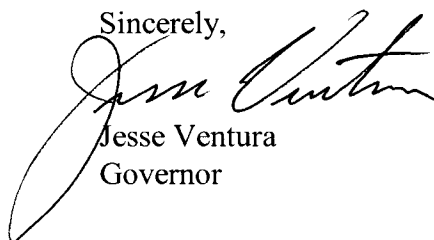
The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad (DM&E) filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board for authority to construct and operate a new rail line into the Powder River Basin. As part of this project, the DM&E will upgrade its existing rail line in Minnesota. On September 27, 2000, the Surface Transportation Board issued its draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the project. Written comments are due on January 5, 2001.

Given the complexity and length of this document we do not believe the 90 day comment period provided by the Board allows a reasonable and adequate opportunity for state and local agencies, other affected interests and the public to thoughtfully consider, evaluate and provide comments to the Board on this matter.

We therefore respectfully request the Board provide an additional 90 day comment period to allow the public to provide comments to the Board with respect to the DM&E's proposed rail line construction into the Powder River Basin.

Your attention and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jesse Ventura
Governor

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