

Surface Transportation Board

Office of the secretary

Case Control Unit

Att: STB FD#33407

1925 K St. NW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: Victoria Rutson, Environmental Project Manager

Dear Ms. Rutson:

A Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) concerning the Powder River Basin Expansion Project of the DM&E Railroad was recently completed. As it relates to the trackage in the Mankato area, the DEIS concluded that the environmentally preferred route is the alternative M-2 route, commonly referred to as the Southern By-Pass Route.

This is a very controversial recommendation, and I would like to share my opinion with you and the Surface Transportation Board.

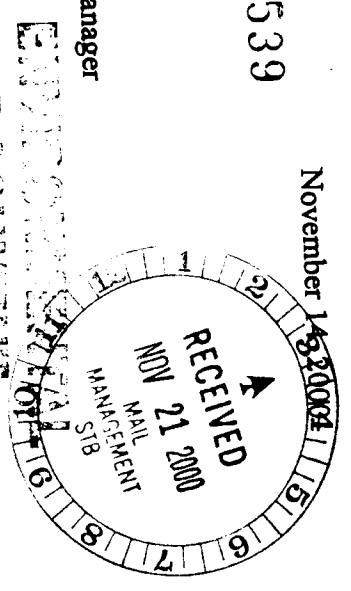
Opinion: Since the Southern By-Pass Rd 90 was built, the improvements to the hills and valleys have been a wonderful even-

Name (please print) Ruth Baumann

Address 123 Tami Lane City Mankato State MN ZIP 56001

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bike/walking path on the north side of the big pass, as well as recreating Indian Lake-for beauty and increasing life (including fish, songbirds). Placing a railroad system on the north side of this County Rd 90 would mean greatly upstating the Indian Lake Project, as well as, meaning the aesthetics and beauty of the country and endangering the beauty/walkers to this new path. What a waste of money and planning this would be!

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