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The Whitehead's

114 S. Skyline Dr.
Skyline, MN 56001
(507) 388-4891

November 24, 2000

Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Manager
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Att: STB FD #33407
1925 K St NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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, MN 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 we would like to share our opinions with you and the Surface Transportation Board.

This project would effectively ruin the City of Skyline. We are a small community located just south of Mankato located next to the Blue Earth river. Our small town is a haven for local wildlife, and we love the peaceful setting in which we live. In a region that is seeing more and more development, the rural area south and west of Mankato has remained a tranquil place in which we can live and raise our families. Needless to say, chopping off a number of our homes to make way for a railroad line which would carry more than 30 coal trains a day through our backyards would effectively ruin our community! Please don't let this happen.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Kathy Whitehead

Sam Whitehead

Lon, Kathy & Sam Whitehead
114 S Skyline Dr.
Skyline, MN 56001

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