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November 22, 2000

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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.

If the Southern By-Pass Route was an option, we were always told it would go south of the new Blue Earth County Highway #90. That would be less harmful to the residents of South Bend Township, Skyline and West Mankato. On November 18, our Mayo and City Council members told the people of the city of Skyline (300-400 people) that the newest Southern Route was right below Skyline hill and would destroy eight homes. This was the first time anyone here had heard of it. We all oppose this route.

Please help change the route to the rural area away from cities and towns to the southern route all along Blue Earth County Highway #90 or the Northern route through rural Nicollett County.

If this train is allowed to come through our end of the city of Skyline, we would be unable to live in our home which is located less than 100 yards from the side of the hill below which the train will run. No one would buy our house either. DM&E says they will demolish four homes next to ours on the hill above the train route. This is our retirement home for which we paid over \$200,000 and spent more than \$50,000 more to update it. This took all our savings and now we'll have a bleak and unhealthy retirement.

Please help get the NSTB members to stop DM&E from destroying the peace and tranquility of our lovely city of Skyline. Our residents are in terror of this matter both financially and medically.

Sincerely

June E. Coleman

June E. Coleman
56 Skyline Drive
Skyline, MN 56001-1925

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