

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

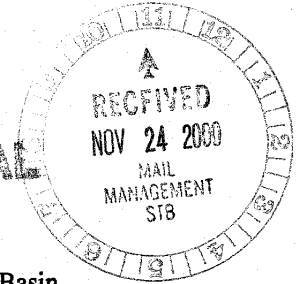
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November 14, 2000



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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: The most recently released routing of the track on the Southern By-Pass Route calls for cutting into the side of the Skyline Bluff, which is one of the most unstable hillsides in the area. Environmental Damage could likely never heal. [over]
(See back for further comments)

Name (please print) Keith Purscell

232 W Skyline Ct

Address PO Box 3639 **City** Mankato **State** MN **ZIP** 56002