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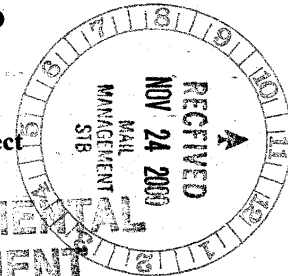
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis

DM&E Powder River Basin Expansion Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

COMMENT SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENTName: Scott VanderWal

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Address: 730 N. Samara Ave.
Volga, SO 57071

Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 33407
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attn: Victoria Rutson

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEC 07 2000

Part of
Public RecordPhone: 605 627-5479

Please provide any comments on the DM&E Powder River Basin Expansion Project Draft EIS.

The Agricultural industry in South Dakota needs the
DM&E expansion project very badly. We have the lowest
grain prices in the nation, due to transportation costs. This
project would provide much needed competition and efficiency.

As for the Brookings by-pass proposal, please drop it from the
F.E.I.S! It is irresponsible, arrogant, and unreasonable. Looking
at all the hysteria among a few people along the tracks, you
would think DM&E was asking to remove a bunch of houses
and run through a previously developed neighborhood! What
part of "it's already there" don't they understand?

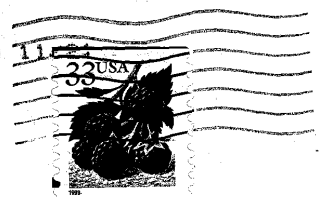
The in-town line can be upgraded and made much safer than
a bypass line due to traffic speed and ability to make
crossings more secure. We don't move highways over a half
mile just because some people don't like them in their back
yards, and the railroad should not be moved either.

Please approve the project as DM&E has proposed, and
throw out the whole bypass idea. At most, it should be
a local issue and not stand in the way of the project. If
Brookings wants a by-pass and wants to pay for it, they can
file that proposal at a later date. If we can get the present
line upgraded and running where it is, people will say "This isn't
so bad, what was all the fuss about???"

Additional comments: _____

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