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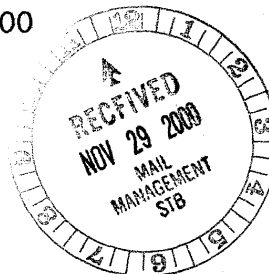
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George W. Sugden
63 Skyline Drive
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

November 24, 2000

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Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 33047
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Attention: Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Manager
Environmental Filing

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT**

Dear Ms. Rutson,

We are writing to respectfully request an extension of 180 days beyond the January 5, 2001 deadline for review of the STB Finance Docket No. 33407/EIS Draft, DM&E Railroad Project because it is a lengthy document of which many of us were not aware until last week.

We were shocked, after being out of the country for three weeks, to learn on our return that the previously proposed DM & E railroad bypass around Mankato had been changed to be adjacent to our city of Skyline with no notice to the residents. We understand that the new route would mean cutting down a large part of city land and destroy at least seven homes, including our own. The cost of doing this, as compared to other possible routes, seems vastly more costly and uneconomical.

Skyline is a quiet community where we have lived for 45 years and where our children have played in the beautiful, safe woods and ravines. This way of life could no longer exist with a railroad a few feet away. We also call your attention to the environmental impact on the endangered bald eagles, which nest in our neighbor's trees, as well as the deer, wild turkeys and other wild life which regularly visit our back yard.

Please give our request your serious consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Suggden

Nadine Suggden

George and Nadine Suggden.