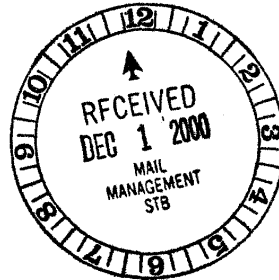


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November 24, 2000

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



Attention: Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Manager
Environmental Filing

Dear Ms. Rutson,

We are residents of Skyline, a small southern Minnesota city which only learned last week that the DM & E expansion project will wipe out a part of our community.

We are writing to ask you to extend the review time for STB Finance Docket No. 33407/EIS Draft, DM & E Railroad Project to 180 days after the January 5, 2001 deadline.

This is a lengthy and important document for the citizens of Skyline to read and understand in the amount of time remaining. We feel there are areas of the project which have not been examined and wish to be sure that there is full knowledge of the impact of the proposal so that the best informed decision can be made by the STB.

We appreciate your attention to our request for a 180 day extension. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirlee and Bruce Ruble
145 South Skyline Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

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