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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

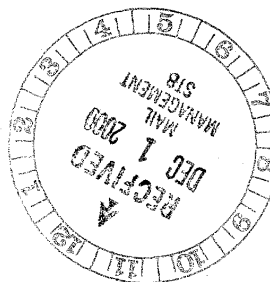


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Ms. Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Dear Ms. Kaiser:

The Department of the Interior is in the process of reviewing the draft environmental impact statement for the **Powder River Basin Expansion Project**. Several of our bureaus have a significant interest in the project which requires considerable coordination of the Department's final comments. Further, there is a need to carefully review the air quality issues presented, and the project will impact both the Badlands and Wind Cave National Parks.

We respectfully request a time extension until January 31, 2001, in which to complete and file our comments on this complex project.

Sincerely,

Terence N. Martin

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Terence N. Martin, P.E.
Team Leader, Natural Resources Management
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

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