

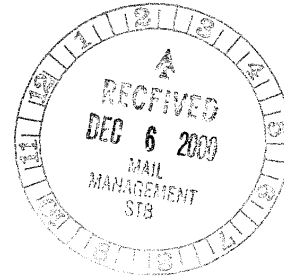
Victoria Rutson, Environmental Project Director
Environmental Filing

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

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re: DM&E coal train expansion, draft environmental impact statement

STB Members:

November 30, 2000

Over the last couple years I have written you on several occasions expressing my concerns over the negative environmental impacts that DM&E's coal train expansion would have on the Quarry Hill Nature Center. I have sent you newspaper clippings of community events, programs, classes, open houses, school outings/educational sessions, and outdoor activities (i.e.; bird watching, cross-country skiing, biking, children's fishing, canoe safety and training) offered at the center. The Quarry Hill Nature Center is a regional treasure that is co - owned and operated by the Rochester Park Department and the Rochester School District.

I am dismayed that there is no mention of required mitigation on the part of DM&E for expanding their business operations and ruining the out door nature experience Quarry Hill offers to thousands of people each year. The rail line runs directly adjacent to the southern property line of the Quarry Hill Center and the increases traffic and associated noise, vibration, diesel exhaust, and eye sore will irreversible alter the value of the nature center to our region.

Besides the Nature Center itself, the quality of the park and associated grounds with its wildlife, native plants, and backcountry quietness draw people to it by way of city walking and bike paths. The park is use all four seasons of the year by many city and area residents.

My wife and I live just 3 blocks from the Quarry Hill park and it was a large part of the reason we bought and located where we did. We walk, hike, bird watch, star gaze, cross country ski, snowshoe, and picnic in the park. This DM&E expansion will ruin our enjoyment of the park and will diminish its attractiveness to other people and also to the wildlife that inhabit the area.

I do not believe there is anyway to adequately mitigate the negative impacts the DM&E expansion will have on the Quarry Hill Nature Center and park. It is unbelievable that you have neglected to address these concerns, especially when you knew full well of the existence of the park and its close proximity to the rail line.

Because of the negative cumulative environmental impacts DM&E's expansion will have, I am against allowing this project to go forward - I urge you to adopt the no action, no build option.

ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT


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