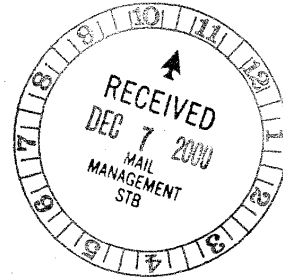


200978

001834

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



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

STB Members:

December 3, 2000

My name is Mark Frederickson, I live at 900 17th Ave NE, Rochester, MN. I live about 2 blocks from the west entrance to the Quarry Hill Nature Center and park and about 3/4 mile from the DM&E rail line. My wife and I use the park frequently for walks (for exercise or for relaxation), biking, bird watching, and star gazing at night. We occasionally make use of the Nature Center, sometimes for community programs or events put on there, sometimes for use of the wealth of nature exhibits and reference materials held and displayed at the center. We also use the Nature Center whenever we have out-of-town company (especially when children visit) as a way to show them the importance of the natural world, and to show off a remarkable nature resource our community of Rochester has.

Having numerous, fast, loud, and heavy coal trains (with their associated increased rumbling and vibration) will negatively impact the value of the Quarry Hill Nature Center and park. This park in particular is used by many people in the community to enjoy a relaxing walk away from the hustle/bustle busy life so many of us lead. The quiet and peaceful environment the park offers will be shattered if you allow DM&E to operate so many coal trains on the very boundary of the park. I do not see any mitigation measures mentioned in the draft EIS, nor do I realistically believe there could be mitigation measures implemented that would prohibit the park and nature center from being forever changed - and changed for the worse. This park and nature center contribute to the overall quality of life for the residents of our community. Besides its recreational value, it has great educational value for both our city's children and adults. There is no way to fix a dollar amount on the value of this park and nature center.

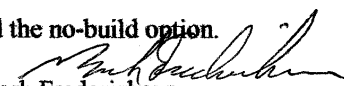
Our community has invested precious resources into developing such a valuable park and nature center so close to town (both the school and park system operate Quarry Hill). I do not believe DM&E should be allowed to destroy this.

I urge you to deny this coal train expansion and uphold the no-build option.

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

DEC 12 2000

Part of
Public Record


Mark Frederickson
900 17th Ave NE
Rochester, MN 55906

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT**