

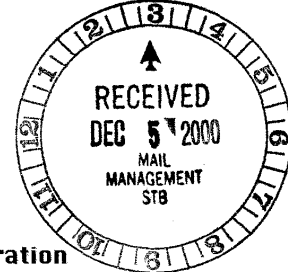
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SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA COAL TRAIN COALITION

25 November 2000

The Honorable Vernon A Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, 7th Floor
Washington DC 20423



Re: Fin Doc 33407, Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation

Secretary Williams;

We have recently become aware of the letter that was written to the Board by counsel for the Edison Electric Institute dated 13 November 2000. Although the EEI has been previously quoted in the media as interested in the project we were not aware that they had adopted a position in submitted documents. Clearly by this letter they are an advocate for the project. As such your citation of them as experts in various sections of the DEIS is improper.

In my testimony at Rochester DEIS hearings, on behalf of the Coalition I stated "In 'Further National Policies,' 1.3.2 (p1-10 to 1.13,) half of the cites listed as information sources are Edison Electric Institute, a utility advocacy group." I noted that this was an example of the inappropriate/inadequate aspects of the DEIS. With the additional information provided by the EEI's letter, it is clear that using them as primary source of information on National Energy Policy, especially without providing counterbalancing points of view, was not simply inappropriate. The section on the need for this project is so partial and subjective as to be unacceptable in a DEIS.

We strongly urge you to review the DEIS and either amend any sections that refer to the EEI and any documents prepared by them, or, if there is no other source for the information that you reference then strike that portion from the draft.

I would appreciate a response to this letter as soon as possible since our comments on the DEIS will have to change if new material is referenced.

Respectfully;

Gael B. Entrikin
Coordinator
SEMCTC
1508 28th St. SW

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