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We are a shipper on the current DME rail line. We support this much needed improvement project. We believe that the remaining issues to deal with can be satisfactorily handled so your approval can be given. A spirit of cooperation and honesty can lead to acceptable solutions. I am bothered by those who use exaggerations and fiction to try to stop a project like this. They simply don't want it in their back yard. Yet they will go home in their gas guzzling SUV and think nothing of it. Then they will go into their home and turn on the lights and TV and many other electricity using tools that are powered by a coal plant that is in someone else's back yard. That power plant has coal shipped to it through someone else's town. They will carry their garbage out to be picked up to be landfilled in my back yard! They will use the toilet and flush their waste to a treatment plant in your back yard which eventually dumps into a river that millions use as their nature escape. But all this is OK to them. I have a real problem with this isolationist attitude. We are all part of a community and we all reap the rewards of that community as we also must sacrifice for the good of that community when necessary. This is one of those times. The DME improvement project needs to move ahead in an orderly factual process.

The safety is the primary concern of all of us and I believe this new DME will be safer than the present situation. I lost a brother at an obsolete RR crossing. No lights, no reflectors, no train 90% of the time.

Rural Minnesota is struggling to compete economically and the gap between regional centers that are enjoying a robust economy and rural MN is widening. We need this project to try to compete and survive.

Without this project, abandonment is a very real option. One that we can not afford to happen.

Please sort through the delay tactics and exaggerations, and proceed with approval of this project with minor modifications. For example, the concern about safety in the New Ulm area, (the Shag road area) can mostly be dealt with by putting a bridge in so no traffic will ever be blocked. This will clear out most concerns being raised here. I believe each problem has a solution, that is if it is a real problem.

Thank you for your time.

Brian Mathiowetz
30676 County rd 24
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

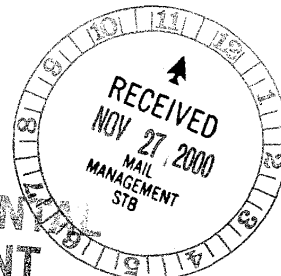
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis

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Public Record**

DM&E Powder River Basin Expansion Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

COMMENT SHEET

Name: BRIAN MATHIOWETZ

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Address: 30676 County Rd 24
Sleepy Eye, MN. 56085

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

Phone: 507-794-6953

Please provide any comments on the DM&E Powder River Basin Expansion Project Draft EIS.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There are some faint smudges and marks near the bottom right corner, possibly from handling or scanning. The overall appearance is that of a standard piece of stationery or notebook paper.