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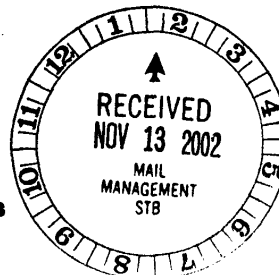
November 13, 2002

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

NOV 13 2002

Part of
Public Record



Re: *Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation -
Control - Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation,
Finance Docket No. 34178*

Dear Secretary Williams:

By letter dated October 15, 2002, and filed on behalf of the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority of Northeast Illinois d/b/a "Metra," we notified the Board and parties to this proceeding that Metra and applicants were engaged in negotiations over the terms on which the Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad ("IC&E") would gain access to the line owned by Metra between Pingree Grove and Cragin Junction, Illinois, which, if successfully concluded, would resolve Metra's concerns about the transaction that is the subject of this proceeding.

The negotiations, although not completed as of this date, have progressed sufficiently to persuade Metra that they are likely to result in a satisfactory resolution of Metra's concerns. Moreover, Metra believes that it possesses remedies independent of these proceedings which are sufficient to protect its interests in the presently unlikely event that the negotiations fail to result in a satisfactory agreement.¹ Therefore, Metra has determined that it will not file opposition pleadings or testimony in this proceeding.

¹ Contrary to the assertion at p. 19 to the Application filed in this proceeding, IC&E does not currently possess trackage rights over the line between Pingree Grove and Cragin Junction, Illinois, but it is operating over that line pursuant to a detour agreement with Metra.

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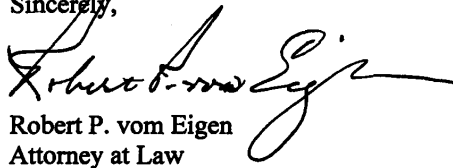
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Honorable Vernon A. Williams
November 13, 2002
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Twenty-five copies of this notice, along with a Certificate of Service, are enclosed. Also enclosed is a diskette containing the text of this letter in Microsoft Word 97 format. Please date stamp the extra copy of this letter, and return it to me for our records. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert P. vom Eigen
Attorney at Law

cc: Michael Noland, Esq.(w/enclosure)
Elizabeth Flood, Esq. (w/enclosure)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 13th day of November, 2002, a copy of the foregoing letter was served in this proceeding by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon the following parties of record:

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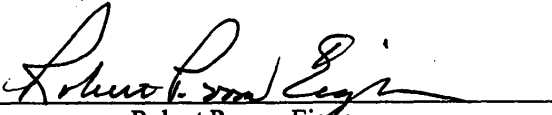
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