



Northwest Petroleum Company

(an Affiliate of Town Pump, Inc.)

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April 15, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE AND VIA US MAIL

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APR 22 2003
FAX
11:12 AM

Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Richard E. Weicher
Sarah W. Bailiff
THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN
AND SANTA FE RAILWAY
COMPANY
2500 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828

Robert M. Jenkins
Adrian L. Steel, Jr.
Mayer, Brown, Rowe
and Maw
1909 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

RE: Finance Docket No. 34330

APR 23 2003

Dear Sirs:

Part of
Public Record

We, Northwest Petroleum Company and Propane Services, Inc. are in favor of Finance Docket No. 34330 permitting the sale of the Montana Western Railway (MWR) assets to Burlington Northern/Santa Fe. Provided, however, that the concerns we have with assuring that rail service in and around Butte-Silver Bow County remains at a high quality service level and at competitive rates. Some of our concerns are as follows:

- Good service and rail car availability to and from the Union Pacific rail head located at Silver Bow, Montana.
- The service to and from the Union Pacific rail head at Silver Bow Montana is maintained in a timely, cooperative manner.
- General level of "very good quality" service from BNSF stays the same as at present.
- Days of week and hours of service availability to railway facilities in Butte-Silver Bow is maintained or improved.
- Competitive rate structure will be maintained or improved.

We recently completed a multimillion dollar investment in rail road dependent facilities. This substantial investment was made with the assurance and commitment of reliable and cost effective rail road service. Our companies have also invested monies in off rail road properties for improvements in an approximate 250-mile radius. These improvements/investments would also become "stranded" if proper historic rail road service was not maintained at/to the "very good quality" service level and competitive rates that have been now and in the past.

Sincerely,

Jim Kenneally

Cc: Chris Randall, BNSF

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• MOTELS • LAUNDROMATS • CAR WASHES • RESTAURANTS • BULK TRANSPORT • PETROLEUM WHOLESALE