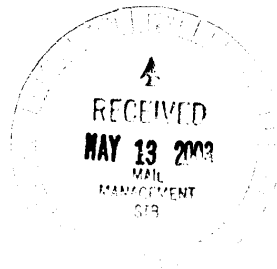




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May 12, 2003

Via Federal Express Next Day Air

207802

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Finance Docket No. 34330; The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway
Company-Acquisition and Operation Exemption-Montana Western Railway Railway
Company, Inc.

Dear Mr. Williams;

This refers to the Petition for exemption filed by the Burlington-Northern Santa Fe on
March 25, 2003. Under the Board's Rules of Practice, replies to the petition are currently
due on April 14, 2003.

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation has a lumber manufacturing facility located in Deer Lodge,
Montana that would be impacted by this acquisition. We currently enjoy a competitive
environment by having joint line access to the BNSF and the UP.

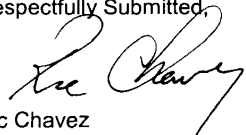
The Finance Document is in our opinion vague in regards to maintaining the competitive
environment we currently have in place with the BNSF and the UP. The document states
on page 7 paragraph 1....BNSF has no plans to close any existing interline routes or to
cancel any existing divisions, and the existing commercial relationships between Rarus,
BNSF and MRL will not be materially changed as a result of this transaction.

Conspicuously absent is any verbiage mentioning the competitive relationship pertaining
to the Union Pacific that companies like Louisiana Pacific currently have.

Due to the short notice given and the potential impact this could have on our business,
we initially request the Board give us a 30 day extension to file our reply. LP respectfully
requests the board to give us an additional 30 day extension. The purpose of this
extension is to gain a better understanding from the BNSF and the UP of the
consequences resulting from this transaction.

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May 12, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric Chavez", written over the printed name.

Ric Chavez
Director-Corporate Logistics
Louisiana Pacific Corporation

Via United States Mail

CC: Roger Nober
Chairman
US Surface Transportation Board

Richard Frost
Executive Vice President – OSB, Lumber, EWP, Procurement and Engineering
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation

Jeffrey Wagner
Vice President Supply Management Forest Resource and Logistics
Louisiana Pacific Corporation

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Bruce Mallory
Director Lumber Operations
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Chris Paulsen
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