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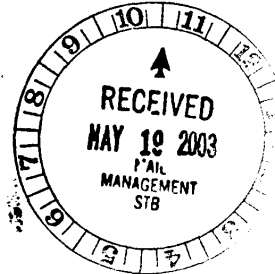
Samuel M. Sipe Jr.
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May 19, 2003

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Office of Proceedings

MAY 19 2003

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Public Record



Via HAND DELIVERY

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

207834

Re: **Docket No. 41191, West Texas Utilities Company v. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company**

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am writing on behalf of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company in reference to the Petition to Establish Procedural Schedule filed with the Board in the captioned docket by AEP Texas North on May 14, 2003. AEP Texas North requests that the Board give its Petition expedited consideration.

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Board that BNSF intends to reply to AEP Texas North's Petition within the 20-day time period provided under the Board's rules. The Petition is not merely procedural in nature but raises critical substantive issues, including the issue of whether the Board has the authority to address AEP Texas North's rate challenge in Docket 41191. BNSF attends to address these issues fully in its reply. It would be improper for the Board to rule expeditiously on AEP Texas North's Petition without giving BNSF an opportunity to reply.

Kindly date stamp a copy of this letter provided herein and return it to our messenger for our files.

WASHINGTON

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LONDON

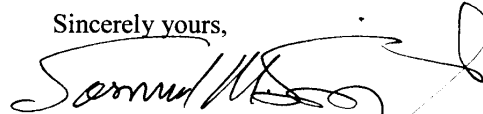
BRUSSELS

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel M. Sipe, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Samuel M. Sipe, Jr.
Counsel for The Burlington Northern
and Santa Fe Railway Company

cc: Michael E. Roper
Kelvin J. Dowd (By Hand Delivery)