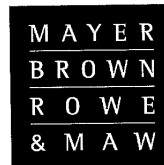


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July 14, 2003

BY HAND

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
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Washington, DC 20423

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Re: The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway
Company – Petition for Declaration of
Prescription of Crossing, Trackage or Joint Use
Rights, STB Finance Docket No. 33740

Dear Secretary Williams:

On May 13, 2003, the Board served a Decision in the above-captioned proceeding granting a request by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") for the issuance of a certificate pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10901 to allow BNSF to both construct the Mooar Line and cross Keokuk Junction Railway Company's ("KJRY") rail line in order to access the Mooar Line. In its Decision the Board directed the parties to begin negotiations on compensation and other terms for the crossing, but provided that the parties may submit any matters in dispute to the Board within 30 days of the Decision's effective date of June 12, 2003.

BNSF is writing this letter to inform the Board that the parties have been negotiating in good faith since receiving the Board's Decision. Counsel for KJRY has authorized BNSF to write this letter to jointly request a thirty-day extension of time to continue the parties' negotiations. Accordingly, by this letter the parties jointly request an additional 30 days, until August 13, 2003, to submit any remaining matters in dispute to the Board.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Jenkins III

cc: Daniel A. LaKemper, Keokuk Junction Railway Company
Michael E. Roper, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

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