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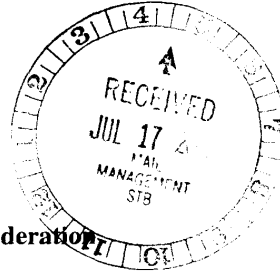
Samuel M. Sipe, Jr.
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July 17, 2003

via Hand Delivery

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

**Expedited Consideration
Requested**



**Re: *Otter Tail Power Company v. The Burlington Northern and
Santa Fe Railway Company*, Docket No. 42071**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned matter is an original and ten copies of Otter Tail Power Company and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company's Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply and Rebuttal Evidence. The parties are requesting expedited consideration of this motion.

Please date stamp the extra copy of this pleading and return it to the messenger who delivered this filing.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey O. Moreno / SMS

Jeffrey O. Moreno
Counsel for Otter Tail Power
Company

Samuel M. Sipe, Jr.

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

Enclosures

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Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1117.1, Otter Tail Power Company ("Otter Tail") and The

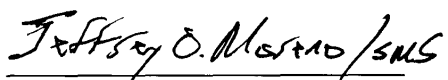
On July 14, 2003, 31 days after the submission of opening evidence, Otter Tail filed errata to its opening evidence, which included what Otter Tail characterizes as corrections to “a problem with the string program analysis it submitted as one of its verifications of the feasibility of the OTRR’s track configuration.” See Otter Tail Errata at 3. In addressing this problem, Otter Tail changed certain operating statistics for the stand-alone railroad (“SARR”) by adding 122.2 miles of track and 28 turnouts. These changes affect the output of Otter’s Tail’s opening DCF analysis by, for example, increasing in the 1Q02 stand-alone cost by \$0.22 per ton. Counsel for BNSF has represented to counsel for Otter Tail that much of the work performed by BNSF outside counsel and consultants to date relating to the operations, capacity and construction of

Otter Tail's stand-alone railroad as reflected in Otter Tail's opening evidence will need to be redone in light of Otter Tail's July 14 errata. In light of this representation, Otter Tail has agreed to extend the procedural schedule and BNSF has agreed that it will not move to strike the evidence submitted in that errata.

Granting the requested 30-day extension will preserve the time intervals for submitting evidence established in the current procedural schedule. With the extension, BNSF will have approximately 90 days from the date that Otter Tail filed its modified SAC evidence to submit its reply evidence. With the extension, the parties will continue to have approximately six weeks between the filing of reply and rebuttal evidence. The parties seek expedited consideration of this motion.

For the reasons set forth above, the parties jointly request a 30-day extension in the deadlines for filing reply and rebuttal evidence in this proceeding.

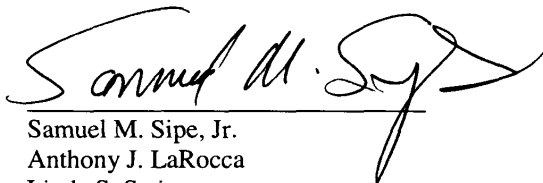
Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 17, 2003



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