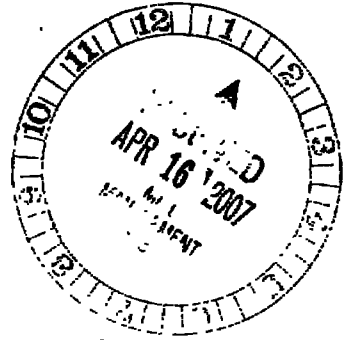


DR DANIEL R. FIEHRER
1111 N. Rodney
Helena, MT 59601
1-406-442-0288



219083

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Public Record

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 "E" Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C., 20423

SUBJECT: STB FINANCIAL DOCKET NO.34947
BNSF LINE: HELENA TO GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Dear Secretary Williams,

Enclosed for your review with the Board is a copy of a letter received from Kory Hofland, Unit Manager of the Business Tax and Valuation Bureau of the Montana Department of Revenue, establishing value of \$16,177.00 for the 1411 acres involved for this right-of-way of the "de facto" abandoned BNSF rail line.

I am in the process of obtaining a licensed contractor's estimate of removing the tracks, ties, ballast (exclusive of removal of bridges, implosion of tunnels or environmental remediation) and removal of track structures above grade. This is expected to be in the range of \$8-\$10 per lineal foot. This, together with the estimated scrap value already provided and the estimated right-of-way of bare land value by the State of Montana, should enable the Board to calculate a Net Liquidation Value.

Your consideration would be appreciated in letting this information become part of the record considered in a review by the entire Board and allowing it to be used to supplement and amend my existing Application and correct one of the few deficiencies cited in lieu of filing a new Application.

Respectfully,

Dr. Daniel R. Fiehrer

ENCLOSURE:

4/9/07



Dan Bucks
Director

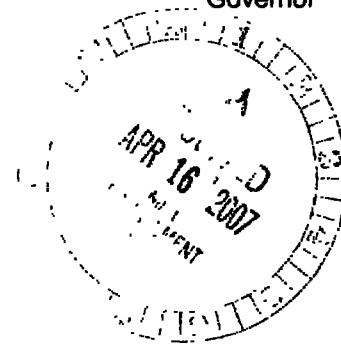
Montana Department of Revenue



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

March 12, 2007

Dr. Daniel R. Fiehrer
1111 N. Rodney St.
Helena, MT 59601



RE: Request for information regarding abandoned BNSF line from Great Falls to Helena

Dr. Fiehrer:

If I understand your letter, you would like to know what the approximate value would be for this land if it were abandoned and put back to its original state. You have also inquired as to what the estimated taxes might be in this case as well.

I have attached a spreadsheet that will show the estimated calculations.

Assuming a grazing land classification, this abandoned line would be approximately 1,411 acres and would have a 2006 value of approximately \$11.47 / acre or \$16,177.12 total.

Using a tax rate of 3.01% and an average mill of 526.84 the estimated taxes would be approximately \$256.53.

Sincerely,

Kory Hofland, Unit Manager
Business Tax & Valuation Bureau
406-444-2659