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May 21, 2003

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 396X); BNSF Abandonment - Ottawa, Kansas

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

AB-6 (396X)

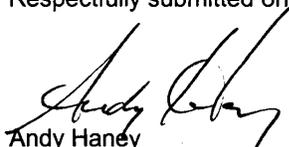


Dear Mr. Williams:

The STB decided on December 26, 2002, in the above referenced case, to grant interim trail use that enabled the City of Ottawa, Kansas to negotiate with BNSF for acquisition of the line. Those negotiations are ongoing, but will not be completed by the established deadline of June 24, 2003. The City of Ottawa requests that an additional 180 days (thru December 21, 2003) be granted as an extension to complete such negotiations with the BNSF.

The BNSF concurs with this request, as evidenced by their letter dated May 19, 2003 to the STB requesting a similar extension (enclosed).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the City of Ottawa, Kansas,


Andy Haney
Public Works Director

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
MAY 28 2003
Part of
Public Record

cc: Weldon Padgett, City Manager
Bob Bezek, City Attorney
Scott Bird, City Clerk
Wynndee Lee, Planning Director
Phillis Johnson-Ball, STB
Sarah Whitley Bailiff, BNSF
Richard Batie, BNSF

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BNSF



SARAH WHITLEY BAILIFF
Senior General Attorney

**The Burlington Northern and
Santa Fe Railway Company**

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VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

May 19, 2003

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 396X); The
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) Abandonment
in Ottawa, Kansas**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please reference a Board decision served on December 26, 2002, in the above-referenced docket. A notice of interim trail use (until June 24, 2003) was issued to enable any state or local government agency, or other interested person to negotiate the acquisition of the line. BNSF is in negotiations with the City of Ottawa at this time and has determined that additional time to finalize a potential trail transaction will be necessary. Therefore, BNSF respectfully requests an extension of the notice of interim trail use for an additional 180 days (through December 21, 2003).

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

cc:

Phillis Johnson-Ball (STB)
Andy Haney (City of Ottawa, KS)
Richard Batie