

Freeborn & Peters LLP

May 6, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS
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. 415X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment of Langdon, North Dakota to Hannah, North Dakota

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Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed is a response I received from the US Fish and Wildlife regarding the above abandonment. I am forwarding ten copies plus the original response to your attention in the event that the agency did not respond to you directly.

Sincerely,

Brian Nettles

Chicago

Springfield

/bn
Enclosures

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Part of
Public Record

April 2, 2004

Jeffrey Towner
Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-7926



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 415X);
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company
Abandonment of Langdon, North Dakota to Hannah, North Dakota**

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Dear Mr. Towner:

On or after April 23, 2004, we are filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 20.93 miles of railroad line between M.P. 74.07 in Langdon, North Dakota to M.P. 95.00 in Hannah, North Dakota, which traverses through United States Postal ZIP Codes 58249, 58281 and 58239 in Cavalier County, North Dakota. Attached are a Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504, Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, telephone (202) 565-1538 and refer to the above Docket Number. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA, with a copy to our representative, would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representative in this matter is Michael Smith who may be contacted by telephone at (312) 360-6724 or by mail at 311 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6677.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Smith

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES ND FIELD OFFICE	
Project as described will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. No endangered or threatened species are known to occupy the project area. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR REVIEW.	
4/12/04 Date	 Jeffrey K. Towner Field Supervisor

Chicago

Springfield