

2/10/04

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. 417X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment from Glyndon, Minnesota to Felton, Minnesota

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Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed is a response I received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 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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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

April 29, 2004

Mr. Michael Smith
311 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-6677



RE: Request for Comments on Potential Environmental Impacts on the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment from Glydon, Minnesota to Felton, Minnesota, Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 417X)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above stated project (Project). Based on the information contained in the cover letter, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) offers the following comments for your consideration:

1. Possible impacts to streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands from erosion and stormwater runoff should be avoided where possible or mitigated as much as possible to lessen any potential adverse impacts. Mulching, seeding, and sodding should be done to establish permanent ground cover and to stabilize soil disturbed by construction activities in the vicinity of surface water (lake, streams, wetlands, and drainage ways), and implemented without the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus.
2. The site erosion control plan should be designed by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and/or the County Soil and Water Conservation District and be a separate bid item in the specifications for the Project.
3. If there are any switching areas located in the Project area we would recommend that a thorough inspection of those areas for any possible oil spills should be conducted. In the past the MPCA has encountered soils contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl's at other railroad switching sites.
4. Please provide information on where and how the railroad ties that are to be removed from the abandoned line would be used or disposed of.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (651) 296-7432.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kain
Project Manager
Operations and Environmental Review Section
Regional Environmental Management Division

KK:mln

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