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**BNSF**



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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

May 17, 2004

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

MAY 18 2004

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Public Record



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 384X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota**

Dear Secretary Williams:

On July 22, 1999, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of 2.98 miles of rail line between BNSF milepost 147.15 and BNSF milepost 150.13, near Sioux Falls, which traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 57105 in Minnehaha County, South Dakota. The STB authorized the abandonment to be effective on September 10, 1999. A notice of consummation was required to be filed on or before August 11, 2000.

However, due to mitigation of a historical condition imposed in the referenced docket BNSF was not able to consummate until that condition was satisfied. By STB decision served April 13, 2004, the STB removed the Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the decision served on September 9, 1999. Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), BNSF is required to consummate this abandonment no later than 60 days after satisfaction, expiration or removal of the legal or regulatory barrier. Accordingly, the new consummation deadline is June 14, 2004. Due to scheduling conflicts in salvaging this line BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2004.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667 or [Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com](mailto:Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com).

Sincerely,

*Sidney Strickland Jr*  
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos  
Richard Batie  
Peter Luedtke