

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-295-4024
FAX: 202-672-5399

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
SIDNEY.STRICKLAND@STRICKLANDPLLC.COM

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DEC 21 2005
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December 21, 2005

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

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 416X); BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Bottineau County, ND

Dear Secretary Williams:

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) previously filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon and discontinue service over a 15.50-mile line of railroad between milepost 52.00, near Souris, and milepost 67.50, near Westhope, in Bottineau County, ND. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on May 25, 2004 (69 FR 29782). The exemption became effective on June 24, 2004.

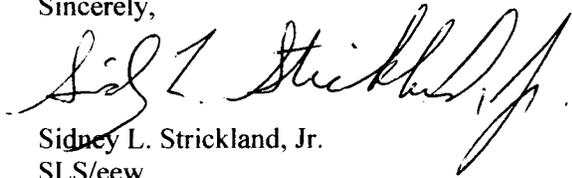
By decision served April 29, 2005, the STB granted BNSF's request for an extension of time to file a notice of consummation until December 31, 2005. Winter weather conditions have hampered the ability to conduct salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until July 1, 2006.

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) 295-4024.

Sincerely,



Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
SLS/eew

cc: James Gallegos
Jerry Johnson
Richard Batie
Dalen Wintermute