

225180

**LARAMIE RIVER STATION**

P O Box 489  
Wheatland, Wyoming 82201-0489  
Phone: 307/322-9601  
Fax: 307/322-7199



May 27, 2009

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

MAY 28 2009

Part of  
Public Record

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: The STB's Docket No. 42088 Rate Reasonableness Decision

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

As the consumers that ultimately pay the freight rates in dispute in the 42088 proceeding, we are pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has found the challenged rates to be unlawful and awarded maximum rate relief (including refunds of past overcharges).

We are the member cooperative, municipal and public power entities in eight states that co-own the Laramie River Station and distribute its electricity to millions of families, farms, ranches, and business customers across the Great Plains. The STB determined that the disputed rail rates, which were at levels well above 500% of direct costs, were unreasonably high and unlawful, and it ordered the defendant rail carrier to implement the rate relief provided. For 2009, the STB estimated that the rates would need to be reduced by approximately 60%.

We understand that on March 20, 2009 the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) established new rates that it said "complied" with the STB's rate relief decision. Those new rates, however, take away approximately one-third of the STB forecasted relief. As the affected consumers, we and our rate-paying customers must pay these BNSF-imposed rates until the issue is finally resolved.

We urge the STB to fairly and expeditiously decide this matter, prevent any additional roadblocks to agency relief for consumers, and take all appropriate actions to ensure that full, effective relief under the STB's maximum rate standards is not subverted. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

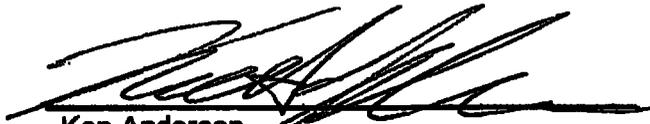
Ronald R. Harper  
CEO & General Manager  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Larry LaMack  
Executive Director  
Wyoming Municipal Power Agency



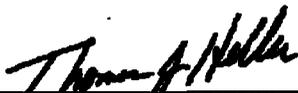
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Doug Curry  
Interim Administrator & CEO  
Lincoln Electric System



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Ken Anderson  
Executive VP/General Manager  
Tri-State G&T Association, Inc.



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Thomas J. Heller  
Chief Executive Officer  
Missouri River Energy Services



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Mike McDowell  
General Manager  
Heartland Consumers Power District

cc: The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey  
The Honorable Charles D. Nottingham  
Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV  
Congressman James L. Oberstar  
Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota,  
and Wyoming Congressional Delegations  
BNSF CEO and Counsel

Enclosure (Laramie River Station Member Cooperatives and Municipals)

# **Cooperatives**

## **COLORADO**

Delta-Montrose Electric Association  
Empire Electric Association, Inc.  
Gunnison County Electric Association, Inc.  
Highline Electric Association  
KC Electric Association  
La Plata Electric Association Inc  
Morgan County Rural Electric Association  
Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.  
Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.  
Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, Inc.  
San Isabel Electric Association, Inc.  
San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
San Miguel Power Association, Inc.  
Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc.  
Southeast Colorado Power Association  
United Power, Inc.  
White River Electric Association  
Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

## **IOWA**

Corn Belt Power Cooperative  
Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative  
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative  
L & O Power Cooperative  
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative  
Nishnabotna Valley REC  
North West Rural Electric Cooperative  
Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO)  
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Western Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Assn  
Western Iowa Power Cooperative  
Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

## **MINNESOTA**

Agralite Electric Cooperative  
Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Co.  
Federated Rural Electric Association  
Lyon Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assn  
Minnesota Valley Co-op Light & Power Assn  
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
Redwood Electric Cooperative  
Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association  
South Central Electric Association  
Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

## **MONTANA**

Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Goldenwest Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Hill County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Lower Yellowstone REA, Inc.  
Marias River Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
McCone Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Park Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Sheridan Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Sun River Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Upper Missouri G&T Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Upper MO)  
Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## **NEBRASKA**

Chimney Rock Public Power District  
Northwest Rural Public Power District  
Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association  
Roosevelt Public Power District  
The Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation  
Wheat Belt Public Power District

## **NEW MEXICO**

Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Mora-San Miguel Electric  
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Northern Rio Arriba Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Otero County Electric Cooperative  
Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Socorro Electric Cooperative  
Southwestern Electric Cooperative  
Springer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Capital Electric Cooperative Inc.  
Capital Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
Central Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
McKenzie Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative  
North Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Northern Plains Electric Cooperative  
Roughrider Electric Cooperative  
Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Verendrye Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Bon Homme Yankton Electric Assoc., Inc.  
Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cam Wal Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles Mix Electric Association, Inc.  
Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
City of Elk Point  
Clay Union Electric Corporation  
Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc.  
Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
FEM Electric Association, Inc.  
Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Kingsbury Electric Cooperative Inc  
Lacreek Electric Association, Inc.  
Lake Region Electric Association, Inc.  
Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Northern Electric Cooperative Inc - SD  
Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
Sioux Valley Energy  
Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Union County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
West River Electric Association, Inc.  
Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## **WYOMING**

Big Horn Rural Electric Company  
Carbon Power & Light, Inc.  
Garland Light & Power Company  
High Plains Power Corporation  
High West Energy, Inc.  
Niobrara Electric Association  
Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp)  
Wheatland Rural Electric Association  
Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA)  
WYRULEC Company

# **Municipals**

## **IOWA**

Akron  
Alton  
Atlantic  
Denison  
Fontanelle  
Hartley  
Hawarden  
Kimballton  
Lake Park  
Manilla  
Orange City  
Paullina  
Primghar  
Remsen  
Rock Rapids  
Sanborn  
Shelby  
Sioux Center  
Woodbine

## **MINNESOTA**

Adrian  
Alexandria  
Barnesville  
Benson  
Breckenridge  
Detroit Lakes  
Elbow Lake  
Grove City  
Henning  
Jackson  
Lakefield  
Lake Park  
Luverne  
Madelia  
Madison  
Marshall  
Melrose  
Moorhead  
Ortonville  
St. James  
Sauk Centre  
Staple  
Truman  
Tyler  
Wadena  
Westbrook  
Worthington

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Cavalier  
Hillsboro  
Lakota  
Northwood  
Riverdale  
Valley City

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Arlington  
Aurora  
Beresford  
Big Stone City  
Brookings  
Burke  
Colman  
Estelline  
Faith  
Flandreau  
Fort Pierre  
Groton  
Hecla  
Howard

**SOUTH DAKOTA *continued* ..**

**Madison  
McLaughlin  
Parker  
Pickstown  
Pierre  
Plankinton  
Tyndall  
Vermillion  
Volga  
Watertown  
Wessington Springs  
White  
Winner**

**WYOMING**

**Cody  
Guernsey  
Fort Laramie  
Lingle  
Lusk  
Pine Bluffs  
Powell  
Wheatland**