

**BNSF**

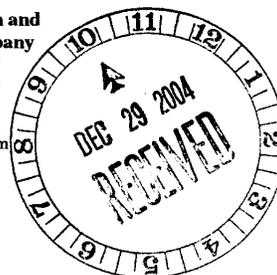


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212882



**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

December 28, 2004

Honorable 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. 420X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment between Antelope Valley, North Dakota and Zap, North Dakota**

Dear Secretary Williams:

On May 17, 2004, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 3.36-mile line of railroad between railroad milepost 77.14 near Antelope Valley Station, in Mercer County, North Dakota and railroad milepost 80.50 near Zap, in Mercer County, North Dakota. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 58580 and 58523. An Interim Trails Use Railbanking Agreement, dated December 28, 2004, was entered into between BNSF and the City of Zap, in lieu of consummation of abandonment.

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.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/js

cc: North Dakota Public Service Commission  
North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Peter Rickershauser  
Jerome Johnson  
James Gallegos  
Richard Batic  
Randy Acosta  
Clarence Olszewski (City of Zap)  
Gregory Lange (City of Zap)  
Rail Services Update

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Office of Proceedings

DEC 29 2004

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Public Record