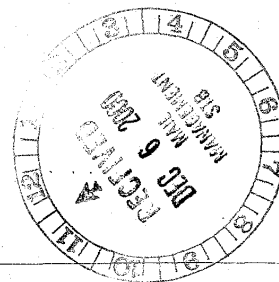


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Office of the Secretary

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Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 33047
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Manager
Environmental Filing

Dear Ms. Rutson,

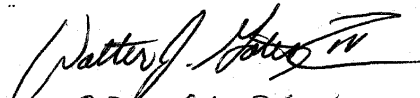
I am writing to request your consideration for an extension of the 90 day review time for the STB Finance Docket No. 33407/ EIS Draft, DM&E Railroad Project.

Since this is a very lengthy document to review and most persons reading this 2000 page document are working citizens trying to read in their spare time, we would ask that their be some consideration given to this matter.

It took a great deal of time for the STB to write this lengthy dEIS report and so we are sure that you will understand when we say we need a little more time than just 90 days. Plus the fact that this 90 day time frame will fall over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We ask that you extend the period 180 days after the Jan. 5, 2001 deadline.

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,


WALTER J. GATES
231 W Skyline Ct.
Mankato, Mn 56001

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