

218078

FLETCHER & SIPPEN LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2875

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

November 13, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700
Washington, DC 20006

Re: **Finance Docket No. 34177**
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation – Acquisition
and Operation Exemption – Lines of I&M Rail Link, LLC

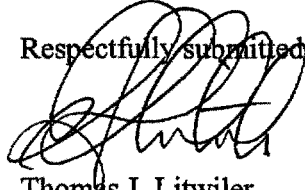
Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the decision served in the above-captioned proceeding on October 18, 2006 and consultations with the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis, Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation and Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation prepared an Environmental Appendix for public review and comment. The Environmental Appendix was submitted to the Board on November 9, 2006.

I hereby certify that on November 9, 2006 a copy of the Environmental Appendix was served by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon: 1) all parties of record in this docket; 2) the U.S. Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency; and 3) the department of transportation and environmental protection agency (or equivalent agency) for the States of Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

I further certify that a newspaper notice in the form attached was published on or before November 11, 2006 in each county through which potentially affected rail lines pass. Publication dates for each newspaper are shown on the attachment.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Iowa, Chicago & Eastern
Railroad Corporation

TJL:tl
Attachment
cc: Ms. Victoria J. Rutson, SEA

TEXT OF DM&E/IC&E NEWSPAPER NOTICE

**Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
Availability of Environmental Appendix
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Acquisition and Operation of the Lines
of I&M Rail Link, LLC**

The Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E) and its subsidiary Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation (IC&E) have prepared an Environmental Appendix (EAPP) that addresses the potential for any cumulative environmental impacts resulting from IC&E's 2002 acquisition of the rail assets of I&M Rail Link, LLC and DM&E's proposed construction and operation of a new rail line into the Powder River Basin of Wyoming (PRB).

The EAPP is currently available for public review and comment. Public comments are due December 11, 2006. Based on SEA's consideration of all timely written comments and its own independent review of all available information, SEA will recommend to the Board whether there is a need for formal environmental review in this case. The Board will then determine whether a categorical exclusion (a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment) covers this proposal, or alternatively, whether an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared.

All interested agencies, organizations and individuals can comment on the EAPP by submitting written comments to the address listed below by December 11, 2006, the close of the public comment period.

Finance Docket No. 34177
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Comments should include the following in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope:

Environmental Filing

If you have further questions regarding the environmental review process, you may call SEA's toll-free Environmental Hotline at 1-888-869-1997 (TDD for the hearing impaired: 202-465-1695). Information about the transactions and the EAPP can also be found at the STB's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Newspaper Name				County	Date
MINNESOTA					
	Owatonna People's Press			Steele	9-Nov
	Community News Corp.			Dodge	8-Nov
	Austin Daily Herald			Mower	9-Nov
IOWA					
	Mitchell County Press			Mitchell	8-Nov
	Manly Junction Signal			Worth	9-Nov
	Mason City Gazette			Cerro Gordo	9-Nov
	Charles City Press			Floyd	9-Nov
	New Hampton Tribune			Chickasaw	10-Nov
	Decorah Journal			Winnishiek	9-Nov
	Waukon Standard			Allamakee	8-Nov
	Dubuque Telegraph Herald			Clayton	9-Nov
	Dubuque Telegraph Herald			Dubuque	9-Nov
	Dubuque Telegraph Herald			Jackson	9-Nov
	Clinton Herald			Clinton	9-Nov
	Quad City Times			Scott	10-Nov
	Muscatine Journal			Muscatine	9-Nov
ILLINOIS					
	Rockford Register Star			Carroll	11-Nov
	Rockford Register Star			Ogle	11-Nov
	DeKalb Daily Chronicle			DeKalb	11-Nov
	Elgin Courier News			Kane	8-Nov