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Dear Victoria

The Draft Environmental Statement on the DM & E expansion project has recently been released. The STB hearings have been scheduled in our area November 1 and 2, 2000. We would have less than 30 days to study a document that is over 2000 pages long and in addition to this there is over 400 permit applications to the Corps of Engineers and amendments to the Forest Service plan that must be added to the DM & E proposal. I would ask that you reschedule the STB hearings to after January 2001.

The written comment period allowed by the STB is only 90 days, this is a very short period of time to comment on such a large document. Most of the people along the proposed line are not familiar with the EIS format and with their daily responsibilities this is too short of a time period for a proper response. I would ask that you extend the written comment period to 180 days.

This project if built will have a very devastating effect on the many towns, homes, farms, and ranches that it will go through and next to. I feel it is not unreasonable to ask for an extension on the hearings and written comment period. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely

