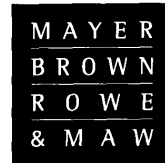


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August 11, 2003

BY HAND

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway
Company -- Petition for Declaration or
Prescription of Crossing, Trackage or Joint Use
Rights, STB Finance Docket No. 33740

Dear Secretary Williams:

On July 21, 2003, the Board served a Decision in the above-captioned proceeding granting a joint request by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") and Keokuk Junction Railway Company ("KJRY") for an extension of time, until August 13, 2003, to continue their negotiations regarding compensation and other terms for the crossing that is the subject of the above-captioned proceeding.

Since then, the parties have been negotiating in good faith, but they have not completed their negotiations. Counsel for KJRY has authorized BNSF to write this letter to jointly request an additional 30-day extension of time to continue the parties' negotiations. Accordingly, by this letter the parties jointly request an additional 30 days, until September 12, 2003, to submit any remaining matters in dispute to the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Jenkins III

RMJ/bs

cc: Daniel A. LaKemper, Keokuk Junction Railway Company
Michael E. Roper, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company