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SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
Associate General Counsel

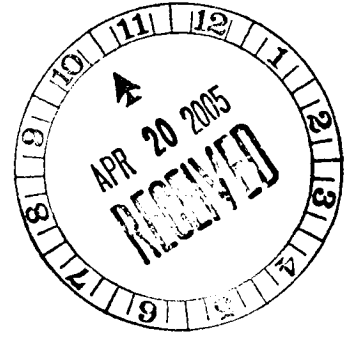
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VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

April 19, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 416X); BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment between Souris, North Dakota and Westhope, North Dakota

Dear Secretary Williams:

On May 5, 2004, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of approximately 15.50 miles of railroad line between railroad milepost 52.00, near Souris, in Bottineau County, North Dakota and railroad milepost 67.50, near Westhope, in Bottineau County, North Dakota. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 58783 and 58793. By decision served May 25, 2004, the STB granted the exemption authority to abandon effective June 24, 2004.

Winter weather conditions have hampered the ability to conduct salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2005.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Strickland, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos
Jerry Johnson
Richard Batie
Dalen Wintermute