



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis

DM&E Powder River Basin Expansion Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

COMMENT SHEET

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Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 33407
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attn: Victoria Rutson

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Office of the Secretary

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Please provide any comments on the DM&E Powder River Basin Expansion Project Draft EIS.

The DM&E project appears to be fundamentally flawed and I believe the STB should deny the application for expansion. If the project is approved, the DM&E should be required to pay the full cost of mitigating the environmental impacts along the route. It would be grossly unfair to allow the DM&E to reap the profit from the venture while passing the burden of cost along to the various communities that lie along the track. Since mitigation would be extremely difficult in heavily urbanized areas like Rochester, the STB should order a by-pass around the city. The rationale for the project, at least in part, seems to be that the extension of the line into the western coal fields will provide DM&E with necessary revenues to upgrade the track and preserve the line. This in turn assures farmers the ability to send product to market by rail. As primary beneficiaries of the project I fail to see where rural residents have a valid basis for objecting to a by-pass. They appear to want the benefit of the project while others bear the impact. I believe it is time to reevaluate the process by which we regulate the rail industry. I will encourage my elected representatives to enact changes to the process that strike a more equitable balance between the needs of the rail industry and the communities that bear the brunt of their actions.

Additional comments: _____

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