



Jake P. DeBoever  
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EL-2533  
CD

**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

September 21, 2006

Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Chief, SEA  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Ms. Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1906

**Re: Surface Transportation Board Environmental/Historical Conditions**

Dear Ms. Rutson and Ms. Bloomberg:

In recent years, BNSF Railway Company has filed a number of abandonment requests with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and has always sought to engage the STB's abandonment process with the highest levels of professionalism and expertise. BNSF strives to comply fully with all applicable regulations related to abandonments of rail property or rail lines through close coordination between the law, strategic planning, and other departments involved with the disposition of rail property and rail lines.

That said we recognize the importance of continuous process improvement, and welcome input from your organizations in that respect. As a result of your input and as part of BNSF's desire to improve its performance levels throughout the company, including its procedures and processes related to abandonment of rail lines, BNSF is planning to have employees involved with the rail abandonment process participate in training courses recommended or offered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the SRI Foundation and SWCA Environmental Consultants concerning, among other things, Section 106 of NEPA.

If you have any questions, please call me at (817) 352-3394.

Sincerely,



Jake P. DeBoever

JPD/js

cc: Mr. Dennis Gimmestad (Minnesota Historical Society)  
Mr. Peter Rickershauser  
Mr. James Gallegos  
Mr. Jerome Johnson  
Ms. Sarah Bailiff  
Mr. Sidney Strickland  
Mr. Richard Batie  
Mr. Dalen Wintermute