



# COMMENT CARD

There are three ways to submit comments on the Tongue River III Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

1. Provide verbal comments at this public meeting (all verbal comments will be transcribed),
2. Submit written comments to the address shown below, or by placing this comment card in the comment box located at the sign-in area; or
3. Submit your comments electronically at the Surface Transportation Board's website, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

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DATE: 12-06-04

COMMENT: Please see the attached information.  
After listening to the testimony given  
I must support the "Draft Supplemental  
Environmental Impact Statement" Tongue  
River Railroad STB No. 30186 (SUB-No. 3).

When submitting comments please be as specific as possible and substantiate your concerns and recommendations.



Please use the reverse side or attach any additional pages.

To submit comments by mail, send to:  
Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
Washington, DC 20423  
Attn: Kenneth Blodgett, STB Docket No. FD 30186 (Sub-No. 3)

TONGUE RIVER RAILROAD COMMENTS



Mr. Kenneth Blodgett  
Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control unit  
Washington, D.C.20423

Re: "Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement" Tongue River Railroad  
STB Finance Document No. 30186 (Sub - No. 3)  
Western Alignment

I support approval of the above EIS because:

- The proposed western alignment of the railroad reduces the environmental impacts when compared to the existing alignment.
- The proposed western alignment reduces the grades that the trains' will have to travel over.
- Completion of the Tongue River Railroad opens extensive coalfields in the Otter Creek area. The State of Montana owns over 530 million tons of this coal with a like amount owned by Great Northern Properties. This is highly compliant low sulfur coal. The development of this coal could create an economic boom in Southeastern Montana.
- Coal development and power plant development along the proposed railroad can create a great number of highly paid jobs.

Coal mine construction (2 mines)	500 jobs
Railroad under construction	500 jobs

Each job pays approximately \$50,000 annually.  
Construction to last up to 3 years.

Permanent jobs - mines	200 jobs @ \$55,000
Permanent jobs - railroad	60-70 jobs @ \$55,000

- Development of the Coal will probably lead to approximately 3,000 megawatts of coal-fired power plant capacity - 5 to 6 plants along the Tongue River. Major new construction and permanent jobs.
- Completion of the Tongue River Railroad opens up the potential for coal development on the Cheyenne Reservation.
- Property taxes from the Tongue River Railroad and coal development along with the lease royalties could reach \$51,000,000 per year.

- Property taxes to the local school districts in Southeastern Montana would exceed \$5,000,000 per year. Powder River County alone would receive over \$1,000,000.
- Total Investment in the railroad and mines would exceed \$270,000,000.
- Local governments are suffering for more tax base and new jobs. Infrastructures are suffering, schools are suffering, people are leaving, and towns are gradually disappearing. Our children are leaving.