

159 Bluebird Lane
Chaffee, Missouri 63740
June 18, 2006

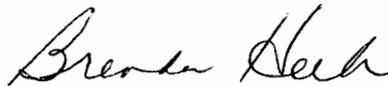
Environmental Correspondence RE: FD_34672

Enclosed is a newspaper report that appeared on March 5, 2006 in "The Signal", a newspaper that covers the Chaffee, Missouri area. This report describes a fire which occurred in an area located east of the existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe train tracks in Chaffee. A fire truck and other responding vehicles were delayed in reaching the fire because a train had both crossings in Chaffee blocked. Because of the blocked crossings in Chaffee, the fire truck had to drive north to Rockview, cross the tracks there, and then come back down south along the hill road. A second fire truck that responded from the nearby town of Delta was also blocked at a Union Pacific crossing in Delta from reaching the fire by the most direct route.

Union Pacific's proposal to obtain ownership of the BNSF track between Rockview and Sikeston, Missouri would result in greatly increased rail traffic through Chaffee. This increased train traffic increases the chances that the two train crossings in Chaffee will be blocked when emergency vehicles attempt to cross these crossings.

An alternative option for Union Pacific, double tracking the so-called "Northern" route between Rockview and Dexter, would have minimal effect the public health and safety. However, the effect on the public health and safety if UP's petition is approved would be considerable.

Sincerely yours,



Brenda Heeb

OUR REGION FOR 96 YEARS

SCOTT COUNTY

SIGNAL

≡ SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2006

Chaffee Fire Department hampered in responding to fire by blocked railroad crossings



Photo by Linda Dowd
Train blocks Yoakum Street railroad crossing at Chaffee on Monday, Feb. 27, delaying timely response by the Fire Department to a vehicle fire on North Frisco Street.





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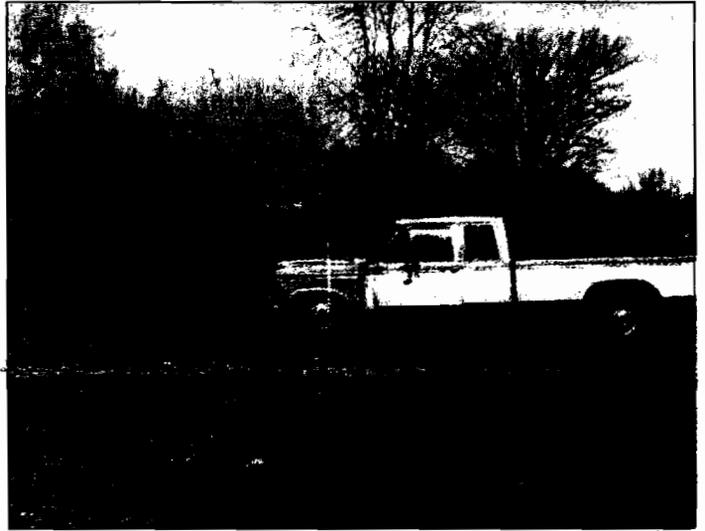


Photo by Linda Dowd

Pickup truck that caught on fire and in turn ignited grass in a field on North Frisco Street.

The Chaffee Fire Department was called at approximately 11:15 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27, to a vehicle fire at 186 N. Frisco Street in Chaffee. Frisco Street is east of the railroad tracks, and a train was stopped, blocking the Yoakum Street crossing. The Gray Street crossing two blocks south was also blocked by the same train. Therefore, the fire truck and other responding vehicles had to turn around and go to Rockview and come back south along the hill road to get to the fire.

Richard Nation, owner of the

pickup, said it backfired and then caught on fire. The truck was parked in his driveway and he said he shoved it away from the house so it wouldn't catch fire. The fire spread to the field where the truck was and burned approximately an acre of grass and brush.

The Delta Fire Department also responded to the fire and the railroad crossing there was also blocked by a train, so they took Cape County Road 250, "Dooley Road," to Highway 77 north of Chaffee and then through town to get to the scene of the fire.