

#E1-1556
RY



Colfax County Board of Commissioners



P.O. Box 1498 • Raton, New Mexico 87740
Phone: (505) 445-9661 • Fax: (505) 445-2902

June 22, 2005

6/28/05

Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA)
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St Room 504
Washington DC 20423-0001

AB-6-428X

RE: DOCKET NO. AB-6

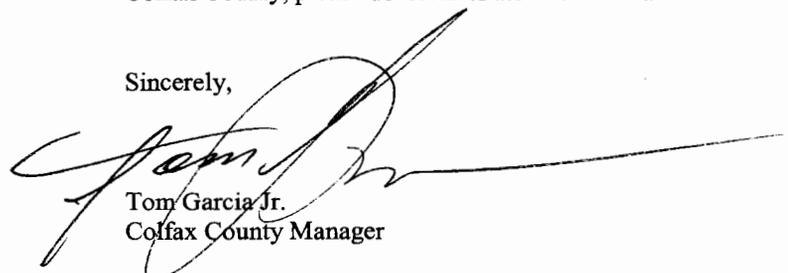
Dear Ms. Rutson,

After review of the documents submitted for this case, our Board of County Commissioners met on June 14th at the courthouse in Raton, NM. The discussion on this case left the commission with several unanswered questions. The Board requested that the following questions be submitted for your review and consideration.

1. Question the timing of abandonment - Possibility of moving too soon to abandon the line.
How does this fit in to the national energy plan?
Have the coal reserves remaining in the area been considered?
2. Salvage question:
Shouldn't salvage be delayed as long as possible until all possible uses are considered?
Has this been considered as an historic preservation site?
3. Other possible uses of road bed.
What happens to existing easement/and or right of way?
Could this be considered a possible future county road?
Have other possible recreational uses been considered?
4. How will salvage and abandonment affect the rail and US Highway 64 crossing?
5. Have other possible uses for existing railroad line as it exists been considered?
Tourism
Biomass Materials Transport
Forestry Restoration

Thank you again for your patience and consideration. The County Commission looks forward to having these questions answered before any action is actually taken. If you need more comment or assistance from Colfax County, please do not hesitate to call me at 505-445-9661.

Sincerely,



Tom Garcia Jr.
Colfax County Manager

cc: Michael Smith, Attorney at Law