



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

#E1-2616

Date: December 11, 2006

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

**Re: Finance Document No. 34177
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation – Acquisition and Operation
Exemption – Lines of I&M Rail Link, LLC**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The NEPA Implementation Section has received the document listed above. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act; U.S. EPA reviews and comments on major federal actions. Typically, these reviews focus on Environmental Impact Statements, but we also have the discretion to review and comment on other environmental documents prepared under NEPA if interest and resources permit.

We did not undertake a detailed review of the document you sent to this office, and will not be generating comments because of the reason selected below.

- The document was not prepared under NEPA.
- The document was given a cursory review, but other workload priorities precluded us from detailed review and comment.
- The document was given a cursory review, and we determined that there were no significant concerns meriting comment.
- We opted to wait for the next level of documentation on this project before deciding whether or not to comment.

We reserve the right to reconsider undertaking a review at future planning stages, or if significant new data on the project is made available by the sponsoring agency or other interested parties. Please contact Kathleen Kowal, of my staff, at 312-353-5206 if you have any questions. Thank you for providing information on the project.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Science, Ecosystems, and Communities