

E1-1517
JR

Roger and Irene Seabright
320 17th Ave. N.E.
Rochester, MN 55906

May 18, 2005

Case Control Unit
Finance Docket No. 33407
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

Attn: Victoria Rutson, Section of Environmental Analysis

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We live approximately 200 yards from the railroad tracks, on 17th Ave N.E. When the trains come through there is quite a bit of noise, and not only from the horns blowing. If the windows are open, it is impossible to carry on a conversation, watch TV, or read a book. If the windows are closed, the noise is still quite loud. There is also quite a bit of vibration. We have had glassware and pictures move. Because this happens so seldom, it has not been a problem. If, and when, the trains start coming through several times a day, it will become a problem. We will most likely move, and pass this problem on to someone else who thinks they are willing to put up with the noise and vibration. If we wait too long, we will probably take quite a loss on our property. We do not want to move; we know most of the people on our block, and it is convenient for walking downtown to work, etc. However, we are on the "wrong side of the tracks" as far as work and medical facilities are concerned. This could probably cause a good deal of inconvenience, if not worse, if we needed medical help. We were both raised in this neighborhood, and feel it would be a shame if we were forced out before we are ready to move.

We hope you will take a serious look at the consequences of the DME railroad's plans for the City of Rochester, and how it will affect our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

 

Roger and Irene Seabright

cc: Governor Pawlenty, Congressman Gutnecht, Mayor Brede, Rochester City Council, Olmsted County Commissioners