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July 22, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: **Docket No. AB-577 (Sub. No. 1X), Mohall Railroad, Inc.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Walsh County, North Dakota**

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Mohall Railroad, Inc. ("MRI") received the enclosed letter from the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") subsequent to the Environmental Assessment being issued in this docket. MRI hereby forwards this letter to the STB and also wishes to take this opportunity to respond to the points raised by NRCS. MRI's numbered responses correspond to NRCS' numbered points in their letter:

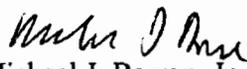
- (1) During salvage, MRI will maintain all drainage patterns;
- (2) During salvage, MRI will not place any soil into wetlands or natural watercourses. MRI will simply remove the track and ties, leaving all ballast in place and the underlying roadbed in place. MRI does not anticipate any erosion issues during salvage, but will be mindful of erosion control measures;
- (3) MRI concurs with NRCS' conclusion;
- (4) MRI will not be doing any construction through wetlands when it salvages the track and ties; and
- (5) MRI does not believe it will disturb any native prairie during salvage, as it intends only to remove the track and ties and leave the ballast and underlying roadbed undisturbed.

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Mohall Railroad, Inc.

MJB:arw

Enclosure.

cc: Byron D. Olsen
Karen Kees
J. R. Flores
Alan Cassidy

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

July 11, 2008

Karen Kees
Felhaber Larson Fenlon & Vogt
444 Cedar Street, Ste. #2100
St. Paul, MN 55101-2136

RE: STB Docket No. AB-577 (Sub No. 1X) – Mohall Railroad - Walsh County, ND –
File No. 24270.001

Dear Ms. Kees:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed your letter regarding the referenced activity and acknowledges your request to determine whether your project affects any agricultural wetlands.

NRCS is the lead agency for wetland delineation on agricultural lands, including cropland, rangeland, and pastureland. If requested, the local NRCS office will provide a certified wetland inventory for the project to be utilized in the 404 permitting process. (Note: the Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for non-agricultural lands, such as urban areas.) We offer the following comments based on the information you provided to us for this project:

- (1) To the extent possible, all natural drainage patterns should be maintained. Land use that may be affected during construction should be returned to the original land use cover.
- (2) During construction, spoil should not be placed in wetlands or natural watercourses. The local NRCS district conservationist in each county can provide wetland inventory maps as needed. Erosion control measures should be in effect during all periods of construction activities.
- (3) This project should have no significant impact on existing soil and water conservation practices in the area.
- (4) Prior to beginning construction through wetlands, the NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), and respective landowners will be consulted to ensure that landowner eligibility in farm programs (if applicable) will not be jeopardized and that Swampbuster requirements will not be violated. Any unavoidable wetland impacts will be mitigated.
- (5) If native prairie is disturbed during construction, existing topsoil will be carefully salvaged and replanted with native grasses in a seed mix recommended by the local NRCS and approved by the landowner. Planting will be conducted in a timely manner so as to minimize invasion of noxious or undesirable weed species.

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Ms. Kees
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Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If you require additional information, discussion, or clarification, please contact Donald E. Felch, Biologist, at (701) 530-2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.R. Flores', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J.R. FLORES
State Conservationist

cc:
Rita Sveen, DC, NRCS, Park River, ND
Andy Wingenbach, ASTC (FO), NRCS, Devils Lake, ND