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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State Historic Preservation Office

April 26, 2006

Ms. Victoria Rutsen
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit – Docket No. 33407
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 433X) BNSF Railway Company
BNSF Railway to abandon 5.40 miles of railroad line between milepost 15.60
near Georgetown in Clay County and milepost 21.00 near Perley in Norman County
SHPO Number: 2006-0480

Dear Ms. Rutsen:

Thank you for submitting a copy of the Environmental Assessment for the above referenced proposal.

The EA accurately reports our earlier comments (our letter of 30 November 2005). Those comments indicated that there was insufficient information to determine whether or not this line meets National Register criteria.

Since those comments, we have received additional information from Sidney Strickland and Associates, including copies of the USGS maps for the area, photographs of bridges and structures along the line, and the Environmental and Historic Reports. Although these submittals include useful information pertaining to the history, location, and current condition of the line, there is no analysis of the historical significance of the line pursuant to National Register criteria. This evaluation is needed as part of the Section 106 process.

Contact us at 651-296-5462 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Sidney L. Strickland



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Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit – Docket No. 33407
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1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 438X) BNSF Railway Company
BNSF Railway to abandon .58 miles of railroad line between milepost 113.44
and milepost 114.02 near Camp Ripley
Morrison County
SHPO Number: 2006-0687

Dear Ms. Rutsen:

We have received a copy of the Environmental and Historic Reports for the above referenced undertaking. The report accurately reports our comment that this line has been determined to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to receiving the STB's analysis of effect, and suggested mitigation measures, if needed.

Contact us at 651-296-5462 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

 Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Sidney L. Strickland