

EI-1599
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AB 6-429X
AB 882-1X



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Office of the Commissioner

July 14, 2005
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Request for Comments on Potential Environmental Impact from

- Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No.429X), BNSF Railway Company Abandonment Exemption in Ramsey County, Minnesota
- Docket No. AB-882 (Sub-No. 1X), Minnesota Commercial Railway Company Discontinuance of Service Exemption in Ramsey County, Minnesota

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above stated projects. Based on the information contained in the cover letter, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers the following comments for your consideration:

1. Possible impacts to streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands from erosion and stormwater runoff should be avoided where possible or mitigated as much as possible to decrease any potential adverse impacts. Mulching, seeding, and sodding should be done to establish permanent ground cover and to stabilize soil disturbed by construction activities in the vicinity of surface water (lake, streams, wetlands, and drainage ways). Also, mulching, seeding, and sodding should be implemented without the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus.
2. The site erosion control plan should be designed by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and/or the County Soil and Water Conservation District and should be a separate bid item in the specifications for the project.
3. If there are any switching areas located in the project area, we recommend that a thorough inspection of those areas for any possible oil spills should be conducted.
4. Please provide information on where and how the railroad ties that are to be removed from the abandoned line would be used or disposed of.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Kevin Kain of our staff at (651) 296-7432.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheryl A. Corrigan".

Sheryl A. Corrigan
Commissioner

SAC:KK:ns:mk

cc: Thomas F. McFarland, Attorney for Minnesota Commercial Railway Company, Chicago