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LEONARD, STREET AND DEINARD

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Response to the STB's Questions Pertaining to the Status of the Northern Plains Railroad Company; STB Docket No.: AB-57 (Sub No. 54X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

Soo Line Railroad Company, d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway Company, recently filed a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (STB). This Notice of Exemption is for Soo Line's abandonment of a 28.35 +/- mile portion of its line of railroad between milepost 446.0 +/-, in Devils Lake, Ramsey County, North Dakota and milepost 474.35 +/- in Harlow, Benson County, North Dakota.

According to the STB's Josephine Gomillion, the STB is requesting verification that the proposed abandonment will not negatively impact Northern Plains Railroad Company (NPRR), the current lessee of the line. While NPRR operated the railroad corridor from 1998 to 2000, the NPRR's president, Mr. Greg Haugg, has informed Soo Line that it no longer has use for the 28.35 +/- mile portion of trackage between milepost 446.0 +/-, in Devils Lake, Ramsey County, North Dakota and milepost 474.35 +/- in Harlow, Benson County, North Dakota. Most importantly, Mr. Haugg has approved the proposed abandonment. Therefore, Soo Line is confirming that (A) NPRR will not be negatively impacted by the proposed abandonment and (B) that it has the NPRR's approval to move ahead with the abandonment process in accordance with the STB's policies and procedures.

Should you have additional questions, please contact me at the address above, or via facsimile (612/335-1657) or email (annie.littlefield@leonard.com).

Very truly yours,

LEONARD, STREET AND DEINARD

Professional Association

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cc: Steve Fisk, Josephine Gomillion, Surface Transportation Board

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