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212852

**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

December 22, 2004

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 384X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota**

Dear Secretary Williams:

On July 22, 1999, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of 2.98 miles of rail line between BNSF milepost 147.15 and BNSF milepost 150.13, near Sioux Falls, which traverses through United States Postal ZIP Code 57105 in Minnehaha County, South Dakota. The STB authorized the abandonment to be effective on September 10, 1999. By decision served May 28, 2004, the STB extended the consummation date until December 31, 2004.

Winter weather constraints have hampered the ability to conduct salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2005.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667 or [Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com](mailto:Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com).

Sincerely,

*Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.*  
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/sjs

cc: James Gallegos  
Richard Batie  
Randy Acosta  
James Ball

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