



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Angela Dansie to: blodgettk

01/10/2013 02:18 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Angela Dansie <montanadansieclan@gmail.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Angela Dansie <montanadansieclan@gmail.com>

Jan 10, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

We further request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in south east Montana, but Colstrip was excluded. Now Colstrip is the end of the line, according to the new preferred route. Although the Colstrip route has been included among the railroad's alternatives since the project was first proposed, it was previously rejected as technically infeasible. The public has just become aware of this change when the Company submitted its supplemental revised application on December 17, 2012. Thus, Colstrip-area residents--including those ranches that will be effectively split by this train--had no reason to suspect they would be so heavily and adversely impacted by the preferred route.

Please consider this request seriously and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

Sincerely,



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

John Holbrook to: blodgettk

01/10/2013 12:19 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: John Holbrook <jholbrook@bresnan.net>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to John Holbrook <jholbrook@bresnan.net>

Jan 10, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

Warmest temperatures ever recorded, polar ice & world wide tundras melting, sea levels rising, and you want to dig up more coal and sell it for nothing??

What the hell are you thinking?

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

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Please consider this request seriously and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of

all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

Sincerely,

John Holbrook
328 S 5th St W
Missoula, MT 59801-2622
(406) 728-6223



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Jan Bertelsen-James to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 06:16 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Jan Bertelsen-James <jujyfrt@eurekadsl.net>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Jan Bertelsen-James <jujyfrt@eurekadsl.net>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!!!

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

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participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

SNEAKY AND DOWNRIGHT
DIRTY...LITERALLY!!

Sincerely,

Jan Bertelsen-James
PO Box 222
Eureka, MT 59917-0222



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Marlene Harrell to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 04:48 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Marlene Harrell <mikala_st.germain@usa.net>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Marlene Harrell <mikala_st.germain@usa.net>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

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Please consider this request seriously and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

My grandparents homesteaded in Montana because of the pristine beauty, clean air, and good, healthy soil. During their lifetimes, they protected and added greater health to the land, water and air. Their children did the same. It is now my generation that must protect and keep our State from spoil. Please allow us time to truly examine what the potential threats are.

Sincerely,

Marlene Harrell
196 Cedar Circle
Saint Marie, MT 59231



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

John Mifflin to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 04:45 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: John Mifflin <miff5187@bresnan.net>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to John Mifflin <miff5187@bresnan.net>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

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Not everybody who is concerned about this is a die hard environmentalist. There are many aspects of this that deeply concern me. I live in Helena, and the thought of day and night trains, which go thru the middle to town, are a major traffic concern. But what concerns me the most, and i don't understand why, is that these trains are going to be open roof and soot and such is going to leave a trail all the way along. We don't want that kind of pollution here.

Sincerely,

John Mifflin
24 S Ewing St Apt A31
Helena, MT 59601-5766



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Brian McNaughton to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 03:15 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Brian McNaughton <psycles369@gmail.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Brian McNaughton <psycles369@gmail.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

Caving to coal companies and their railroads is a stupid choice. Transparency and public input is more important than ever in these days of rapid climate change. We already have way more energy reserves than we need. Let's slow down the incredible push by energy companies to despoil our landscape and supercharge climate change. They have no idea how much they are ruining our environment because they are in denial.

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

We further request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in south east Montana, but Colstrip was excluded. Now Colstrip is the end of the line, according to the new preferred route. Although the Colstrip route has been included among the railroad's alternatives since the project was first proposed, it was previously rejected as technically infeasible. The public has just become aware of this change when the Company submitted its supplemental revised application on December 17, 2012. Thus, Colstrip-area residents--including those ranches that will be effectively split by this train--had no reason to suspect they would be so heavily and adversely impacted by the preferred route.

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Sincerely,

Brian McNaughton
17 Creekside Ln
Trout Creek, MT 59874-9581



Fw: Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Kenneth Blodgett to: Joshua Wayland

01/09/2013 02:49 PM

----- Forwarded by Kenneth Blodgett/STB on 01/09/2013 02:49 PM -----

From: Andy Hudak <andyhudak@montanasky.net>
To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov
Date: 01/09/2013 02:46 PM
Subject: Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process
Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

We further request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in south east Montana, but Colstrip was excluded.

Please consider this request seriously and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

Sincerely,

Andy Hudak
PO Box 1763
Whitefish, MT 59937-1763
(406) 862-1112



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Byron Crow to: blodgettk

01/10/2013 11:49 AM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Byron Crow <bcrow.mt@gmail.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Byron Crow <bcrow.mt@gmail.com>

Jan 10, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

With the "new" proposed changes to the Tongue River Railroad proposal, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. This change needs to be addressed, and the public should be given the time to review all documents and maps to make an educated decision. A process is in place, and we should abide by this process and be able to comment on All available information. Coal dust, and the inherent risks associated with it should not to be taken lightly. The particulate burden experienced during shipment in the dry seasons, along with watershed loading in the wet seasons, has been proven in and along rail sections in China, and other industrial nations. All information is relevant in discussing this issue, and as such should be present, and available to the public.

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I strongly request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful, educated comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

I would further request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in south east Montana, but Colstrip was excluded. Now Colstrip is the end of the line, thus the highest impact point, according to the new preferred route. Although the Colstrip route has been included among the railroad's alternatives since the project was first proposed, it was previously rejected as technically infeasible.

The public has just become aware of this change when the Company submitted its supplemental revised application on December 17, 2012. Thus, Colstrip-area residents-- including those ranches that will be effectively split by this train--had no reason to suspect they would be so heavily and adversely impacted by the preferred route.

Please consider this request seriously and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted and these changes, areas need to be addressed. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

Sincerely,

Byron Crow
5 13th Ave W
Polson, MT 59860-5317



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Randy Carpenter to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 10:50 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Randy Carpenter <randyndebby53@msn.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Randy Carpenter <randyndebby53@msn.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

We further request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in south east Montana, but Colstrip was excluded. Now Colstrip is the end of the line, according to the new preferred route. Although the Colstrip route has been included among the railroad's alternatives since the project was first proposed, it was previously rejected as technically infeasible. The public has just become aware of this change when the Company submitted its supplemental revised application on December 17, 2012. Thus, Colstrip-area residents--including those ranches that will be effectively split by this train--had no reason to suspect they would be so heavily and adversely impacted by the preferred route.

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Another consideration is the increased train traffic. We had one train about 2 weeks ago that blocked the only crossing that fire and ambulance can cross in Heron Montana for 45 minutes. This could have been disastrous had emergency response been needed. Issues like these need to be addressed.

Sincerely,

Randy Carpenter
52 Golden Pond Dr
Heron, MT 59844-9504



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Randy Best to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 09:47 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Randy Best <randolphbest@hotmail.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Randy Best <randolphbest@hotmail.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

There is a lot of concern that the Tongue River Railroad poses a serious pollution hazard to people, farmland, etc. The government needs to make sure the pollution dangers are not too severe, and cancel their proposals if that is the case.

Sincerely,

Randy Best
294b 2nd Avenue East N
Kalispell, MT 59901-4105
(406) 752-7741



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

David Webb to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 09:47 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

From: David Webb <david@millcreeklodging.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to David Webb <david@millcreeklodging.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

During the winter holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of this confusion,

This is all very confusing, and, what's worse, looks like a major deception. Obviously the review process needs to begin again with a clear understanding by the broader public as to what is being considered. I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route, not on speculation.

I further request an expanded scoping process, including additional public meetings to be held in the Colstrip area and some western communities as well. In the previous effort, as I understand it, hearings were restricted to communities in southeastern Montana. You really can't change groundrules in the middle of a game. You must begin a new game.

Sincerely,

David Webb
11 Clear Creek Trl
Anaconda, MT 59711-9495
(406) 560-7676



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Claudia Narcisco to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 07:59 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Claudia Narcisco <cnarcisco@yahoo.com>
To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov
Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>
Please respond to Claudia Narcisco <cnarcisco@yahoo.com>

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Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

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Please consider this request seriously and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit as well as the letter of all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

This proposal has been quite confusing. There have been mixed messages coming out including a related October outreach signaling the TRR would have been routed along a state fish hatchery and thus requiring FWP approval. This was soon dropped and some publics, including myself assumed it was done only to have it raise its head again. Each change relating to this project exacerbates the process, making it still more important to extend the deadline and clearly outline what the proposal is, what the issues are and what alternatives are being considered to address these issues. If tribes and an Amish community are effected, this speaks to social justice as well as environmental and other issues. The people of Montana are entitled to a clear proposal and an accurate and comprehensive assessment of effects. Nothing short of that will do.

Sincerely,

Claudia Narcisco
5607 Gharrett Ave
Missoula, MT 59803-3009
(406) 531-3673



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Mary Anne Simpson to: blodgettk
Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

01/09/2013 07:55 PM

From: Mary Anne Simpson <maryannesimpson@gmail.com>
To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov
Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>
Please respond to Mary Anne Simpson <maryannesimpson@gmail.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

Montana's Constitution mandates the right to a clean and healthful environment. Moreover, Montanans are guaranteed full public disclosure of matters pertaining to changes relating to the environmental.. The people of Colstrip and all surrounding areas impacted by this Tongue River Railroad should be provided the opportunity to voice their opinion on all details of the plan.

Please provided an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. All residents including but not limited to Tribal members, landowners, community members and anyone residing in the area has a right to know about the proposed railroad route and to voice an opinion.

Thank you for your anticipated read of the above request.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Simpson
314 E 13th St
Helena, MT 59601-3761



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Janet Tatz to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 06:16 PM

Sent by: **Sierra Club** <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Janet Tatz <janetilene@gmail.com>
To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov
Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>
Please respond to Janet Tatz <janetilene@gmail.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

As you are undoubtedly aware, on the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental, revised application for Tongue River Railroad, in which it identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. In light of these twelve hour amendments, additions and the resulting confusion, I request that you further extend the deadline for scoping comments in order that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route.

I further request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in Southeast Montana, but Colstrip was excluded. Being that Colstrip is now "the end of the line", according to the new preferred route, a public hearing definitely should be held in that community. Although the Colstrip route had been included among the railroad's alternatives since the project was first proposed, it was previously rejected as technically infeasible. The public has just become aware of this change when the Company submitted its supplemental revised application on December 17, 2012. Thus, Colstrip-area residents-- including those ranches that will be effectively split by this train--had no reason to suspect they would be so heavily and adversely impacted by the newly preferred route.

I trust you will consider and act on this request in a timely fashion and take the right action. The very nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of all of the laws on the books that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them. To do

otherwise is to make a mockery of our process.

Sincerely,

Janet Tatz
907 Hideout St
Helena, MT 59601-5628
(406) 443-0349



Extend the Comment Deadline for the Tongue River Railroad Scoping Process

Jennifer Nitz to: blodgettk

01/09/2013 06:16 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

From: Jennifer Nitz <grizzalo@hotmail.com>

To: blodgettk@stb.dot.gov

Sent by: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Jennifer Nitz <grizzalo@hotmail.com>

History: This message has been forwarded.

Jan 9, 2013

MT Surface Transportation Board Ken Blodgett
MT

Dear MT Surface Transportation Board Blodgett,

Recently, and after all public scoping meetings had concluded in Montana, the Tongue River Railroad Company submitted a supplemental revised application for Tongue River Railroad. It identified for the first time in the project's 30-year history the "Colstrip route" as the company's preferred route for the railroad. At the same time, STB released to the public a new map of the Colstrip route. Several local landowners received yet another map that depicts a Colstrip route that is different from the route depicted in the map available on STB's website. Though this latter map has not been made available to the general public, it reportedly shows the proposed route of the railroad traversing land owned by an Amish community--land not shown to be impacted by any other map. Due to this confusion, I request that you extend the deadline for scoping comments so that the public can make meaningful comments on the actual preferred route.

We also request an expanded scoping process, including an extension of the public comment period and an additional public meeting to be held in the Colstrip area. Scoping hearings were held in many communities in south east Montana, but Colstrip was excluded. Now Colstrip is the end of the line, according to the new preferred route. Although the Colstrip route has been included among the railroad's alternatives since the project was first proposed, it was previously rejected as technically infeasible. The public just became aware of this change when the Company submitted its supplemental revised application on December 17, 2012. Colstrip-area residents-- including those ranches that will be effectively split by this train--had no reason to suspect they would be so heavily and adversely impacted by the preferred route.

The nature of the Tongue River Railroad has changed with this alteration of route. Now different people and different communities will be impacted. Extend the scoping period and uphold the spirit of all of the laws that guarantee the public's right to participate in decisions that impact them.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nitz
802 E Front St

Missoula, MT 59802-4705