

MASTER FILE

N2015.11.84

Scherer, Sandra

From: Deborah Hanson <hans_deb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 5:01 PM
To: PSC_UtilityComment
Subject: Public Comment Submittal re: Railroad Safety Roundtable

I am a resident of Miles City. My husband and I reside two short blocks from the railroad tracks as they go through the City and downtown. There was a derailment in 2005 of a coal train at the crossing 2 blocks from our house on 10th Street. Right now, BNSF has replaced track and maintains its right to travel at 60 mph when it deems it can right through the center of our town. This seems most unsafe to those of us that experience this everyday.

We are most interested in the state assessing and improving our rail safety in this state.

With the increase in rail traffic due to the Bakken oil plus the coal, freight, and commodity trains, we need to gather information on the number of trains, the types of cargo, the risk assessment of the various cargos, the risk to our many communities in Montana through which the trains travel.

The state of Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety has been implementing plans to oversee railroad companies, require more railway inspections and providing for better emergency response trainin and preparedness in communities across the state. This is a great tool for the PSC to use in its deliberations.

Most importantly, more inspections of track/rail operations and a serious discussion of Emergency Response plans and training for all the communities affected plus an assessment on the railroad companies to fund emergency response should be discussed. Right now, our town does not have the manpower, the equipment to deal with a real rail disaster, especially a Bakken oil train derailment/explosion. We are told the nearest Emergency Response team is in Havre. Not an option.

I wish I could attend but request that the above be given a high priority.

Sincerely,

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