



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 20, 2015

Mr. Carl Ice
President and Chief Executive Officer
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
2650 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830

Dear Mr. Ice:

It has come to my attention that the routing of BNSF crude oil trains through Minnesota has changed significantly over the past few months. According to your most recent filing with Minnesota Homeland Security and Management, 11 to 23 crude oil trains per week are now being transported on the Willmar-Minneapolis-St. Paul rail line, which was not previously identified as a crude-by-rail corridor.

According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, an additional 99,000 people are now living within the ½ mile evacuation zone of crude oil routes, bringing the statewide total to 425,448 individuals who live in an evacuation zone. That is a 30% increase. Also noteworthy are sites located within the new zone, including Target Field, Target Center, the University of Minnesota, and Downtown Minneapolis.

I am deeply concerned by this new information, and especially that you did not inform me or my staff about this significant change in your operation, which puts an additional 99,000 Minnesotans at risk.

This corridor, which includes 63 grade crossings, was not studied in MnDOT's 2014 Grade Crossing and Rail Safety for Oil and other Hazardous Materials report, because it was not then identified as a route carrying Bakken crude. In my effort to ensure that my state is doing everything possible to protect the safety of Minnesotans, I urge you to make the following additions and modifications to your current operations in this corridor:

- Issue a public statement stating that this reroute is temporary—include timelines for when the corridor will return to normal operations, and keep as many oil trains as possible out of this area of concern. Reroute more non-oil traffic to this route and keep oil trains on existing oil routes.

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- Do not operate crude oil trains under Target Field Stadium during events.
- Extend your first responder training program to all communities along the new route, and mitigate any known rail infrastructure vulnerabilities along the new route.
- Verify that the same level of crude-by-rail inspections and detection performed on existing crude oil routes, including the placement of wheel detectors, is also being conducted on this new routing.
- Assess the route for locations and characteristics of potential worst-case discharges.

Please provide a progress report on these modifications to me by the end of October. Also, feel free to have your staff contact Joanna Dornfeld, Deputy Chief of Staff, at joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us or 651-201-3423, with any questions.

I urge that you promptly inform the public and me about any changes in your operations, especially as they pertain to crude oil shipments through highly populated areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Commissioner Ramona Dohman, MN Department of Public Safety
Commissioner John Linc Stine, MN Pollution Control Agency
Commissioner Charlie Zelle, MN Department of Transportation