



BCC 2011-049
March 3, 2011

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Director Jim Lynch
Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

RE: Kearn Module Transport Project and any other similar projects

Dear Director Lynch:

It has come to our attention that a number of loads previously proposed for transport in the KMTP project on Highways 12 and 200 will now instead be reduced in size and transported via Interstate highways. We agree that use of the Interstate highway system is much more appropriate for transport of oversized loads. We do not anticipate that transport of the oversized modules over the Interstate highways would have the significant adverse impacts that would be likely if they are transported via Highways 12 and 200.

Please provide us with any information the Montana Department of Transportation has about any potential changes to the KMTP proposal relating to use of the Interstate highways. We also request any information about the potential transport of Canada-bound oversized loads on the Interstate highways and how it may impact the number of KMTP loads on Highways 12 and 200. We will appreciate receipt of any information on these types of loads, regardless of whether the information is characterized as relating to the KMTP or a different project. Please include in your response any communications with the oil companies, transport contractors, or others, including copies of emails, relevant to the potential movement of any Canada-bound oversized loads on the Interstate highways.

While we are encouraged by the news that some of the Kearn Project modules will be reduced in size and transported over the Interstate system. However, we also note that this news directly contradicts the conclusory statements in the EA and FONSI that transport over the Interstate system would not be "feasible" because the modules are "nondivisible loads." Clearly the fact that the modules are being reduced in size and transported over the more appropriate Interstate route reflects some of the basic inadequacies and false premises of the EA and FONSI.

We will appreciate your prompt response to our request for further information. We are hopeful that the information requested will alleviate the potential for litigation over this matter.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Jean Curtiss, Chair



Bill Carey, Commissioner



Michele Landquist, Commissioner

BCC/rm
cc: Greg Robertson, Director Public Works
James McCubbin, Deputy County Attorney