



Division of Finance & Management

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TO: South Dakota Railroad Board & Authority
FROM: Jack Dokken, Office of Air, Rail and Transit
DATE: May 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Lake Andes Farmers Coop Rail and Grade Removal

Background

At the March 2023 Railroad Board & Authority meetings, the Board and the Authority approved a permit for 500 feet of track removal with 60 feet of grade lowering. The permit was for a new road that the Lake Andes Farmers Coop built to accommodate truck traffic approaching their new scale. Since then, the new road and crossing were inspected and measured by SDDOT staff. Their measurements read 260 feet, not 60 feet – the road surface is 100 feet wide with 80-foot-wide ditches on both sides.

Request

SDDOT recommends the Railroad Board and the Railroad Authority re-approves the 500 feet of track removal permit to include the corrected 260 feet of grade lowering, with the requirement that in the event the rail line becomes reactivated, Lake Andes Coop would pay for the restoration of the grade, steel, and other components necessary to the design requirements of the railroad restoration project.



The red line indicates the grade lowering for the new road with ditches is approximately 260 feet. The blue line indicates 500 feet of track removal.