

Lowell Scoping Meeting
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EI-22552

FD35952

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My concerns are focused on the area around I-65 and State Road 2 intersection. See attached map.

1. The proposed path crosses State Road 2 just east of I-65, from there it goes northeast and crosses Clay Street then continues on to cross 173rd. Ave. That makes 3 crossings in 1 mile. For emergency services to reach the homes on 173rd. from Lowell they would have to negotiate the 3 crossings very possibly causing long delays creating a very serious safety issue.
2. From State Road 2 the route curves south/ southwest to within a few hundred yards of a new stone quarry. The quarry is on the outside of that curve. This quarry in order to operate it is estimated they could pump up 17 million gallons of ground water into the Singleton Ditch every day. If and or when there is a derailment on that curve, with a hazardous material spill it could easily get into the soil and water, ultimately into the quarry, then to the Singleton, eventually to the Kankakee River and on into Illinois.
3. About the proposed route, it does not look like any train route I have ever seen. I understand they were trying to avoid towns but this route snakes all around with all kinds of curves. As I mentioned earlier the curve right near the quarry in my mind is a safety issue. Then beyond the quarry it crosses I-65 continuing west. According to the map it actually crosses a small lake. I am pretty sure that is a mistake on their part, or maybe not, either way, it certainly makes me stop and think about the rest of the project and what other mistakes have been made in their plans. Perhaps another mistake is that in the documentation they submitted to you they talk about 110 trains per day, but then when questioned by the media and the citizens they talk about 20 trains per day. These are just two points that make me take pause and wonder how well this entire project has been thought through by GLBT.
4. I am confident that you as a Board in the process carrying out your duties will find many other problems with this project and come to realize it would be a noose around southern Porter and Lake Counties.

