

Good afternoon, My name is Mark Melin, ~~I am a land owner in~~
~~Bradford Township.~~ I live at 4608 E. Rye Dr. Clinton W 153525

Great Lakes Basin is requesting authority to construct and
 operate a rail line, ~~in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.~~

From press releases and the GLB website we know that GLB is
 requesting a 200 foot wide easement which includes a 50 foot
 utility easement.

My first request to you is to establish whether or not GLB is
 correct in including this 50 foot wide utility easement in its request
 to the STB for approval to construct and operate a rail line

GLB, ~~on their website under the heading Primary Features,~~ under
 Revenue it states, Quote "As mentioned above, 50 feet of the
 200-foot GLB right of way would be reserved for possible use by
 utilities as a new right of way to serve potential future population
 growth of the region. This is another potential source of revenue
for GLB." end quote

No purpose or need for this 50 foot utility easement is mentioned
 in the Notice of Intent, as a matter of fact this utility easement is
 not mentioned at all in the NOI.

If the utility easement is not within the authority of the STB to
 approve the 50 foot utility easement should be immediately
 excluded.

Mr. Patton is on record stating that up to 6 tracks are possible at
 some point in time and that 2 tracks are capable of 110 trains per
 day.

Mr. Patton states he is planning long term, he is planning for the
 future of his grand children's grand children. If Mr Patton is
 looking that far in the future so should we and so should the
 Environmental Impact Statement.

The EIS should provide analysis for this project when it is at full capacity. ~~Six tracks and 110 trains for every 2 tracks.~~
Impact at the current proposed single track in Rock County is vastly different than the potential 6 tracks.

* ~~The 6 rail tracks~~ will greatly increase the impacts of noise, sight and vibrations.*

* ~~The 6 rail tracks~~ will greatly impact our natural environment in all its forms.

* ~~The 6 rail tracks~~ will make at-grade crossings impossible. *and*

* ~~The 6 rail tracks~~ will make the likelihood of an accident that much greater.

~~The 6 rail tracks will completely alter the rural nature of our townships forever, making them less desirable to live in.~~

Townships have had the foresight to write zoning laws to keep the township rural because that is what the people living here want. The 6 rail tracks would destroy the human environment we have chosen to live in.

If the proposed track is indeed supposed to take us into our grand children's grand children's future then the EIS should include analysis of the need for this train track in that future. Mr. Patton is on record stating that the rail will mainly carry ethanol, oil, coal and grain. The EIS should analyze whether it is realistic to think that 100 years from now we will still depend on fossil fuels.

I respectfully request that the EIS analyze the GLB request just as far in the future as Mr. Patton does, including the possibility of 6 rail tracks functioning at capacity.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act we have a duty to generations to come to restore and maintain environmental quality to the overall welfare and development of man.