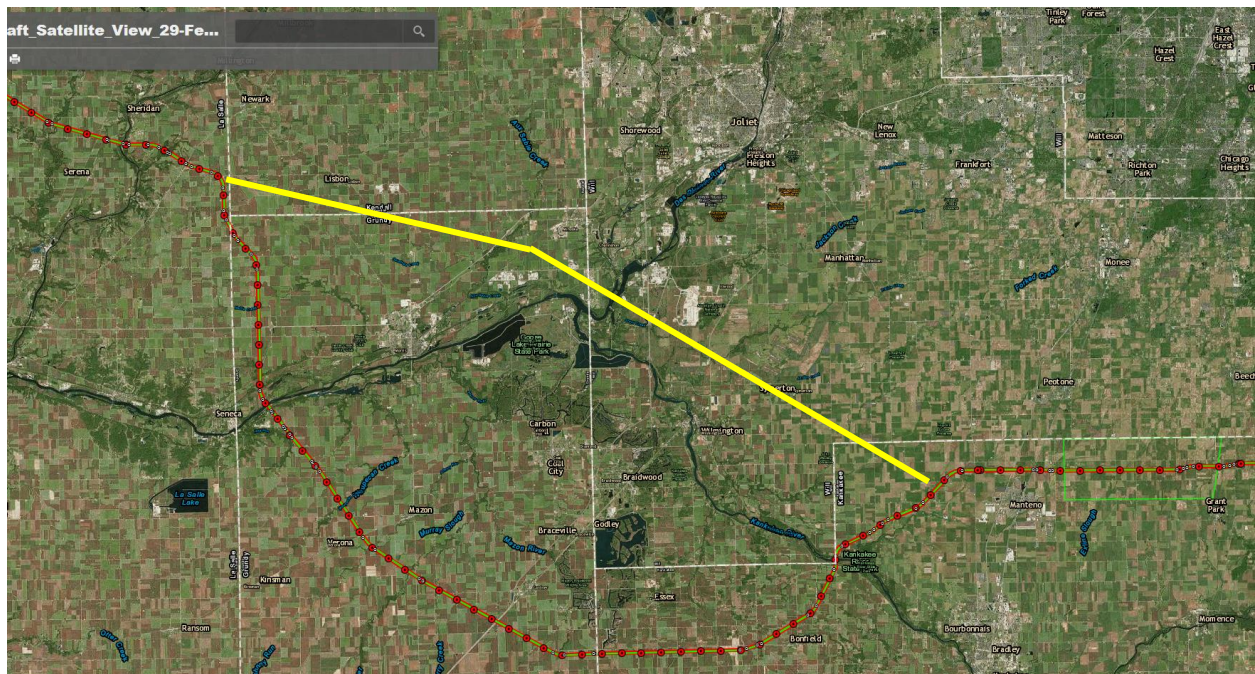


Dear STB,

First of all I do oppose the introduction of a new railroad. But if it must be, then I wish to propose the re-routing of the proposed route in order to reduce the number of times that the railroad crosses the rivers in the region. In addition the alternate route is shorter in distance, thus reducing the cumulative effects to the environment.

My concern is that each mile of rail and each river crossing takes away part of the scenery, adding to visual pollution, air and water pollution, and disrupting wildlife habitats. I simply wish to minimize these effects by urging the repurposing of existing rails and their river crossings.

Please see below image.



Shown in this image is the current proposal in Kankakee County. Highlighted in the yellow is a proposed alternate rail that minimizes the overall environmental impact to the region, by reducing the rail length and the number of river crossings.

Sincerely,

Michael Riegel