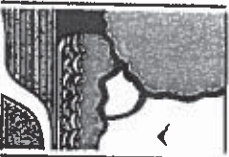


EJ-18916
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Mare Miller, Director

May 23, 2012

Mr. Jeremy Berman
Attorney for Elgin, Joliet & Eastern
Railway Company
Fletcher & Sipel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Dear Mr. Berman:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) fully supports filing with the Surface Transportation Board for a notice of abandonment of the EJ&E's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Goose Lake Segment near Morris, Illinois. This segment of railroad right of way bisects our current ownership at Goose Lake Prairie State Park.

As requested, IDNR has reviewed the Environmental/Historical Report and offers the following comments in response to 8. Biological Resources. (i):

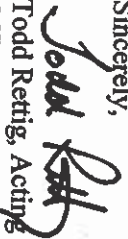
EJ&E thus does not believe that any critical habitat will be destroyed, altered or affected as a result of the proposed abandonment, or that any endangered or threatened species are present in the area or would be adversely affected.

IDNR has identified the following endangered or threatened species are present in the area:

American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Common Moorhen, King Rail, Blanding's Turtle, Regal Fritillary, Eryngium Stem Borer, Redveined Prairie Leafhopper, Ear-leaved Foxglove, Grass Pink Orchid, Narrow-leaved Sundew, Slender Sandwort.

IDNR agrees that the abandonment will allow improvement in migratory bird habitats.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Connie Waggoner of my staff at 217/782-7940.

Sincerely,

Todd Retig, Acting Director
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning

TR:CW