



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

How Do I Submit Comments?

EI-24773

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link and then clicking on "Environmental Comments."

Please refer to Docket No. FD 35952 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is May 16, 2016.

This railway will negatively impact many people's livelihood. Dividing acreage can cause problems for many farmers. Many farmers need large plots because their equipment will not work on small plots. For many farmers, a small plot can be under 60 ~~acre~~ acres. If a farmer wants to sell, he won't be able to. Several counties have laws that state that nothing can be build on less than 40 acres. A 35 acre plot is "worthless" Besides being too small for farming or building, no one will want to build near a train line. The economic impact to landowners is very much going to harm the local economy and people's livelihoods.

NOTE: When an individual chooses to submit an Environmental Comment or some Other Submissions, his or her personal contact information is considered public information and is shared within and outside of STB without additional authorization.

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Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



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Due to the numerous river and wetland crossings, the GBB rail line will disrupt many watershed management plans that are in place for DeKalb, Ogle, Boone & Winnebago Counties in IL. DeKalb County recently finalized an extensive plan for the south branch of the Kishwaukee River. There is a crossing at miles 188/7 that will effect this plan. Restriction of water flow will impact several communities: Kirkland, Kingston, Genoa, Sycamore & DeKalb. Insufficient drainage will also cause farmland to drain slower and remain wet or underwater a lot longer than they currently are.

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The rail way should not be built, especially at where the rail way crosses the south branch of the Kishwaukee River at miles 187/188. The Kish is a Class A navigable water way. Along this section of the river there are nesting bald eagles, great blue herons, and at least 20 other species of birds. The eagle hangs out in my pasture. There are alligator snapping turtles in the Kish. My son found one by our barn a few years ago - we think it may have been dropped by a raccoon. I also hear northern cricket frogs, American toads, spring peepers, and have seen leopard frogs & tree frogs. Eagles, alligator turtles, and cricket frogs are all protected species. Even if there is never an accident, the ecology will be harmed even with construction.

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The river crossing at miles 188 is a T intersection. The Kishwaukee River floods in this area, a lot. This area is important for drainage of the northern half of DeKalb County. Having any of the flood plain filled in or other wise restricted will guarantee that the river will rise even higher. During heavy rains the river rises fairly high and has threatened many homes in the area. The roads are often underwater for 1-3 days during spring melts & rains. If the river flow is restricted this could impact travel of emergency vehicles, children's bus routes, and property of local residents and of residents further upstream in DeKalb County.

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I would like to express my displeasure of someone building a railroad by my house. 9 years ago me and my parents moved away from the city for quietness and lack of pollution. Now with this idea ~~that~~ a railroad being put in less than a mile from my house IN TWO DIRECTIONS!!! It would be very loud and the pollution could go worse and seaming as I don't do well with that, like turn blue/can't breathe, it would be unhealthy for me. Also it would cut off my communication to my friends, I live 8 miles from town so I can't walk or ride my bike to town. I can't drive either because I'm only 13. I have 9 friends in a 4 or 5 mile area to be able to ride to and the railroad would cut off my ability to be able to go over for safety reasons. It's already hard enough to ~~go over~~ already. I hope you reconsider your thoughts to make this railroad.

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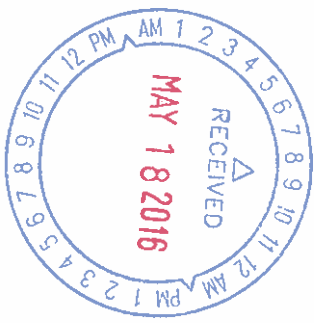
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