



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

April 21, 2016

Mike Blaszak, Chief Legal and Administrative Officer
Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.
23860 State Line Road
Crete, Illinois 60417

Jim Wilson, President
Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.
23860 State Line Road
Crete, Illinois 60417

Frank Patton, Managing Partner
Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.
23860 State Line Road
Crete, Illinois 60417

Re: Agriculture Impact Statement-Proposed New Railroad Line in Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Blaszak:

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection understands that Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. has proposed the construction of a new 278 mile rail line of which approximately 24 miles would be constructed through Wisconsin. The Department has reviewed the information available online at your website and at the Surface Transportation Board website, in addition to communications you have received from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The Department may be required to prepare an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) for this project. An AIS presents an analysis of the potential impacts of a project on individual farms, identifies the farmland acreage lost or affected, and discusses specific land owner concerns. An AIS may also draw conclusions and recommend ways to reduce the project's potential impact on farms.

As a railroad, you may have condemnation authority under Wis. Stat. § 32.02. Please be advised that you are required under Wis. Stat. § 32.035(3), to provide notice to the Department of any project involving the actual or potential exercise of the powers of eminent domain affecting a farm operation. In addition, under Wis. Stat. § 32.035(4)(d) negotiations between an agricultural property owner and a condemnor may not take place until 30 days after the AIS is published.

We ask that you inform the Department as to whether you intend to utilize the authority under Wis. Stat. § 32.02(3), to implement your proposed railroad line construction. Please contact Marilyn Weiss at 608-224-4650 or marilyn.weiss@wisconsin.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ben Brancel
Secretary

cc: Governor Scott Walker
Senator Stephen L. Nass
Senator Janis Ringhand
Cathy Stepp, Department of Natural Resources

Representative Amy Loudenbeck
Representative Andy Jorgensen
Mark Gottlieb, Department of Transportation
Dave Navecky, Surface Transportation Board

Agriculture generates \$88 billion for Wisconsin

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