

E1-22590

LaPorte Scoping Mtg  
4-14-16

I have some concerns where the train will cross Wozniak rd in Westville. The crossing I am talking about is in the more southern route. The land between HW 6 and the old railroad bed has some issues. Part of the land actually is a registered wetland. The rest of the land actually is either very wet, almost swampy, to where parts of it cannot even be farmed because of how soft the ground is year round. And believe it or not some other parts are a dry peat. In the 1 years I have lived here I have witnessed 2 "MUCK" fires. A muck fire is where the ground is mostly dry peat and when ignited burns or rather smolders down deep in the ground anywhere from 1 to as much as 6 feet deep, depending on the depth of the peat. It then will burn or smolder outward under the ground until it is extinguished. Which is hard to find sometimes because it mostly takes place underground. The ground will then collapse because of the empty void. Since it is smoldering under the ground the only way to put it out is to dig a moat around it until it burns its way to the water and extinguishes itself. One of the fires was started by a campfire while the other we believe was started from an ember of a local burn pile. It is so dangerous in the fact that you do not know how far it has burned underground when you finally locate it so you have to watch not to fall into a smoldering void.

Another concern is the fact that the crossing will right on or right after a 90 degree corner. An if someone comes flying around the corner heading north I believe it would be possible to run the gates. People do not exactly drive slow down this road. Just seems like a very dangerous location for a crossing. It will not be clear to the public.

One more item I would like to address is that under the current route on this same corner it would take away a residents pasture that he has developed for his horses. It is the only pasture he has for them. It would negatively effect the health and well being of not only his animals but his family members also. His grandchildren live with him and might possibly have a railroad in their backyard.

Thanks for considering my input.

Matt Popp

through Illinois, and into Indiana. Along its route it is going to split into 2 lines right before the community of Westville Indiana. Basically it is going to split the WHOLE community into almost 3 equal parts. meaning that all environmental issues that will come with the railroad will have an effect on the ENTIRE community. You have health issues # 1. adding an estimated 20 new crossings in a small area increasing the possibility of train-car collisions. not to mention all of the student drivers, and our loaded buses, that will have to cross these to and from school. Not to mention more crossings outside the area that will be encountered as students travel to sporting events from school to school. # 2. I have also read many health related issues from the noise from the trains themselves and the horns that the trains will sound at each crossing 24 hours a day. and since the community of Westville is split into thirds the whole community will suffer from these effects. The worst being the effects the noise has on the common persons body during their sleeping hours. #3 if there is ever the disaster of a derailment, again, the WHOLE community with reap the effects of the many hazardous chemicals that these trains could release into the environment. And what I understand a lot of them are quite deadly. These small communities that are effected do not have the means to handle such a disaster as a derailment nor do they have the funds to prepare for such huge catastrophe. #4 you have to consider that there will definitely be huge delays in response time for EMS to any 911 calls for any area residents, and in those circumstances time is the biggest difference between life or death as we all know.

I also just cannot think of all the local farm land that will be ruined by he railroad. It may only cut through the fields but the impact on drainage ( possible long term flooding in parts due to the railroad bed acting as a dam) not to mention all of the irrigation systems that the community has put in over the years to help build our economy.

I ask you to please help our community of WESTVILLE, INDIANA. I truly believe that the whole community of Westville is at risk here. I do not want to see an entire community wiped out either over a slow period of time or from a deadly chemical accident.

**PLEASE SAY NO TO THE NEWLY PROPOSED RAILROAD IN WESTVILLE INDIANA.**

I send this message not only for myself, but my wife, my kids, and other family and friends that all live within this small community.

Sincerely,

Matt Popp