

FD 35952

Great Lakes Basin

Dennis Scheppler
212 North Owen
Mount Prospect, IL 60056-
lauraanddennis1@netzero.com

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 22, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Private Citizen

Along mile marker 133 of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad narrative lay the towns of Serena and Sheridan, IL. This line will destroy the tranquility of these sister towns with the blaring of train whistles, the rumble of train cars and the thunder of engine noise trains produce. Thus noise can be heard for miles from the tracks and is a public nuisance. This line, if approved needs to be located away from these towns, either further North in the Somonauk area, or further South by Dayton, IL. The Dayton area is already listed as a possible alternative route by GLB, they dismissed it as having a longer river crossing and impacting a sky diving business. These rejections are consistent with the poor logic GLB has used in the preparation of this route. The Dayton Crossing is actually preferable as it will allow their line better access to the US Silica plants, makers of Silica Sand, in the Ottawa area, as well as the other major industries and distribution centers in Ottawa, IL. U.S. Silica already ships its product by rail. Dayton is also a less populated area than Serena and Sheridan, and keeps the line well away from the Sheridan Correctional Facility, housing almost 2000 inmates, and the Community Unit District Number 2 schools. Dayton has no school or prison, and their sky-dive business can easily be relocated to a new location, as in the 1980's it was located at the Sandwich, Illinois airport. Skydiving can occur anywhere there is an airstrip, PRIME farmland can not be moved from where it exists. Dayton is also outside of the Serena and Sheridan shared emergency response area, Dayton is served by the Ottawa emergency services. This too makes the location preferable, as the current GLB line forces the Sheridan and Serena fire departments to cross the line for almost all emergency calls, as the two towns work together on major fires and accidents. The Sheridan Ambulance services all of Serena and the GLB line cuts Serena off from its Ambulance services. GLB claims their route is prefect, but instead it is wrought with problems, it is not hard to determine where township lines and fire protection lines are located, and to build so that vital services are not as affected. If GLB had done their homework they too would see where crossing the river at Dayton Illinois would be preferable, but as with the rest of the project GLB took the easy route and not the correct route. Because the GLB line has not taken the public needs into account when it comes to safety the line must be denied as not publically necessary.