

Docket No. FD 35952

Attention: Dave Navecky, Phillis Johnson-Ball, Victoria Rutson

Environmental Comments

Minus an application that was not submitted by Frank Patton and the Great Lakes Basin Transportation LLC, we lack complete knowledge of the intent and intended use of the proposed 278 mile rail line that would run from just outside Milton, Wisconsin through Illinois and Indiana ending at Kingsberry, Indiana in La Porte County. We get many conflicting stories from Mr. Patton, but one thing he has made perfectly clear is that the rail line is designed to transport over 2000 different hazardous materials and chemicals.

The reason for planning this route through farmland and the rural areas of these states according to Mr. Patton is to reduce congestion in the Chicago area and to avoid cities and towns. However, on closer examination it is becoming clear that his reason has nothing to do with congestion and more to do with protecting the people in these urban areas from train derailments, explosions and fires. In his opinion our lives, water sources and other environmental concerns are not important. We would just be "minimal" collateral damage in his vision of this legacy he is trying to create at our expense.

If, in fact, we take Mr. Patton at his word, crude Bakken Oil should be shipped at high speed by rail in cars that are not designed to withstand impacts from derailments, through the country and rural areas of these three states with no concern for the lives or environment this action would potentially destroy.

He further stated that his vision includes six (6) separate sets of railroad tracks carrying up to 110 trains per day at 70 miles per hour or faster. Considering the fact that we have an average of three (3) train derailments per day in this country alone, this additional rail traffic could potentially increase that number.

Many of the trains that derail each day are transporting nontoxic or explosive materials, however the purpose of this proposed rail line is to only transport hazardous and explosive materials at speeds of 70 miles per hour or faster. This is a prescription for disaster for the new proposed rail line and for the people, livestock, wildlife, environment, soil, water and the food producing land it would contaminate.

For these and many other reasons we believe this project should be denied.

Respectfully,
Patricia Mussman
Unincorporated West Creek Township
Lowell, Indiana