



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT
PO BOX 2004 CLOCK TOWER BUILDING
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

EI-25256

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

May 12, 2016

Regional Planning and
Environmental Division North

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District (District) received your letter dated March 18, 2016, requesting participation in the EIS scoping process for the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Incorporation's proposed plans to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line from LaPorte, IN to Milton, WI. The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis has determined that the preparation an Environmental Impact Statement is appropriate and has issued a Notice of Intent which can be viewed online. The District accepts the invitation to become a participating agency as a significant amount of the new rail line falls within our Regulatory and Civil Works jurisdiction. The District has reviewed the information provided both in the letter and via teleconference/webinar held on April 22nd, 2016 and have the following comments:

a. The potential project area involves lands which are located within four different Civil Works boundaries: Detroit, Rock Island, Chicago, and St. Paul. Your proposal does not have enough specifics at this time to determine if there will be any need for Rock Island District Real Estate involvement; therefore, further District real estate coordination maybe necessary as project actions are reviewed for implementation.

b. Should your project impact waters of the United States (including wetlands), Department of the Army (DA) Section 404 authorization will be required. Additional information concerning any proposed new construction will be required before we can determine the need for, and what form of Section 404 authorization is required to cover your project. Prior to initiation of any new construction, please submit a complete application for DA authorization as early as possible. Your complete application must include a wetland delineation using the Corps 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and the Midwest Regional Supplement, along with a discussion of all impacts to the nation's waters.

If you have any questions regarding permit requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, please contact Ms. Donna Jones of our Regulatory Branch. You may reach Ms. Jones by writing to our address above, ATTN: Regulatory Branch (D. Jones), or by telephoning 309/794-5371.

c. Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408 (commonly referred to as "Section 408") authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE civil works project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project.

The Rock Island District is responsible for operating and maintaining the Illinois River for safe and effective navigation. In order to help ensure the Rock Island District will be able to fulfill its authorized mission on the Illinois River, permission under Section 408 will be required for the proposed project. Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-216 provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects pursuant to 33 USC 408.

If you have any questions regarding Section 408 permission requirements, please contact Mr. Paul St. Louis, Rock Island District 408 Coordinator. You may reach Mr. St. Louis by writing to our address above, ATTN: Emergency Management Branch (P. St. Louis), or by telephoning 309/794-5208.

No other concerns surfaced during our review at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal. If you need more information, please call Mrs. Wendy Frohlich of our Environmental Compliance Branch, telephone 309/794-5573.

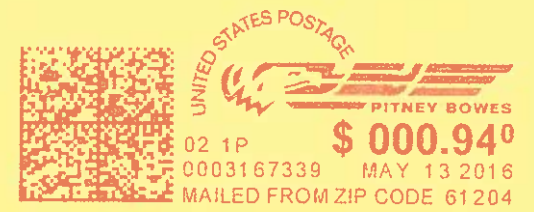
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being more prominent than the last name "Barr".

Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch, (RPEDN)

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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