



October 28, 2016

Ms. Victoria Rutson, Director  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 35952, *Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. – Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin*

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The Winnebago County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was created as Mandated by SARA Title III – Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11001, *et seq.*, and the Illinois Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, 430 ILCS 100/1, *et seq.* A primary responsibility of the LEPC is to develop a chemical emergency response plan for Winnebago County, Illinois.

The LEPC members have recently become aware that Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. has adopted a new Preferred Route which runs through the entire county under its jurisdiction. The previous route for which there was a public comment period traversed no property within the LEPC's planning jurisdiction. Therefore, the LEPC submitted no comments, as any would have been immaterial to the route presented.

It was also mentioned the comment period will not be extended to address the new alignment, but the now closed comment period will remain as the comment period for this alternate route. By unanimous vote at its meeting yesterday, the LEPC strongly urged that, to comport with the requirements of due process and fundamental fairness, the comment period be re-opened.

The recently proposed alignment will now be located in Winnebago, not Boone, County, Illinois, and the citizens of the affected county should have an opportunity to address this major intrusion into their community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. R. Diehl".

F. R. Diehl  
Chairman, Winnebago County LEPC



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
501 7<sup>th</sup> Street - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockford, Illinois 61104-1221



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