

EI-25029



STB Docket No. FD 35952

Dale Hoots

to:

david.navecky@stb.dot.gov

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Hide Details

From: Dale Hoots <dhoots@outlook.com>

To: "david.navecky@stb.dot.gov" <david.navecky@stb.dot.gov>

2 Attachments



warner bridge closed.docx ATT00001.htm

Dear Mr. Navecky,

In regards to the GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC—AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A RAIL LINE IN INDIANA, ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN proposal I would like to add the following comment.

Every few years the Kankakee River at Kankakee County Road 7000W, also known as Warner Bridge Road, freezes over and creates significant ice jams which forces IDOT to close the road due to the potential instability of the bridge. This current bridge is right next to the proposed railroad bridge that the GLB is planning to build to cross the Kankakee River. If these ice jams are significant enough to close a bridge that is only 10-20 feet above the water, what kind of structure will the GLB have to design and build to support a railroad line that will be 100 feet above the grade of the river. It will have to be an enormous structure, large enough to support thousands of tons at one time, whereas this car bridge is only supporting a few cars at a time and they close it periodically. What happens when GLB has to close this bridge due to ice? What happens if they have a derailment because they under-design the bridge?

I have attached more information from the March 8, 2014 Kankakee Daily Journal.

These are questions we ask you to consider during your environmental study of the proposed GLB. Obviously, this route does not seem to make the most sense.

Regards

Dale Hoots

4279 W 7940 N Road

Manteno, IL 60950



Warner Bridge closure draws attention from near and far

The Daily Journal staff report

Mar 8, 2014 1



The Daily Journal/Mike Voss

Chris O'Brien, an amateur photographer from Bourbonnais, takes photos on Thursday of the ice jam on the Kankakee River at Warner Bridge. Hundreds of curious onlookers, as well as local and national news networks, have come to visit the massive ice jam.

The frozen Kankakee River has drawn a lot of attention.

Out-of-town visitors have come to see the frozen river with its jagged, snow-covered ice caps.

Curiosity-seekers have been drawn by television coverage in both Chicago and national television reports chronicling the closing of Warner Bridge. An ice jam has kept the bridge closed since Feb. 23, and it is likely to remain closed even longer.

It also has drawn the interest of Olivet Nazarene University's beat reporting class, who watched all of the televised coverage. The journalism students last week produced a report on the frozen river and closure of Warner Bridge. Their full report can be seen on page A3 of today's Weekend Edition of The Daily Journal.

There is a direct impact on some students who attend ONU's Bourbonnais campus.

Students are having a difficult time finding the quickest

new route to school.

Andrew Marcotte, an ONU sophomore, commutes from Bonfield. Since the bridge closed, Marcotte's drive has been extended by 15 minutes with an added \$10 a day spent on gas.

ONU senior Seth Wenzelman also has complaints about the bridge closure. As a college student and student teacher, Wenzelman commutes from Herscher to Manteno five days per week.

"Even going into Bourbonnais or Olivet is a big hassle," Wenzelman said. "Overall, it has been a real pain, and the sooner they open the bridge the better."