

**GLB railroad**

Douglas Gray to: david.navecky@stb.dot.gov
Cc: Kankakee County Farm Bureau

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From: Douglas Gray <grayent@hotmail.com>
To: "david.navecky@stb.dot.gov" <david.navecky@stb.dot.gov>
Cc: Kankakee County Farm Bureau <kankfb@sbcglobal.net>

Dear Mr. Navecky

I am writing to you with my concerns for the GLB railroad. I farm in the western Kankakee County area and one of my farms is in very close proximity to the rail road being few hundred feet from the proposed route.

I currently have one parcel of ground next to a spur line coming off the Canadian National Railroad to Herscher, Illinois. This farm has been the recipient of weed seeds coming in to my field which adjoins the rail tracks. They are carried on hopper bottom rail cars coming into our local grain elevator.

Over the course of the last three decades

kochia, water hemp and now poison hemlock have all made it onto that farm and subsequently been spread to my other farms. I have managed to contain the kochia fairly well. However the other two water hemp and poison hemlock are now spread throughout the area and they originated from the railcars. It is a lost battle with those two weeds. I do know the water hemp originated in the desert southwest, I am not sure where the other two came from. It takes a lot of chemical herbicides to attempt to control these.

My other environmental concern is the effects that the trains will have running over the existing pipeline network feeding into the Chicagoland area from all directions. Here at Herscher I live on a natural gas storage dome which serves as a reserve for the Chicagoland area. In times of severely cold weather gas is pulled from the reserves to supply the Chicagoland area. It is a constant battle for Kinder Morgan to maintain the network of pipelines that that both inject and extract the natural gas from the dome that is 1200 feet below ground. The system operates at around 1500 pounds of pressure. The company maintains anode beds which put an electrical charge on the pipelines to prevent corrosion. We have had incidents in the area.

The most recent one was around the year 2000. A natural gas pipeline south and west of Bonfield Illinois ruptured in the middle of the night creating a massive fireball and subsequent fire. For miles around the explosion was felt and seen fortunately no one was killed or injured as a result of it. The corrosion component in pipelines occurs as a result of chemical reactions as well as very minute vibrations that contribute to the cavitation corrosion of the pipelines from the inside out. It was suggested that heavy truck traffic may have contributed to the rupture of this pipeline near Bonfield. While a rail bed may well be built above ground with a ballast of rock to carry the load it also will transmit vibrations into the ground that covers these pipelines. Currently most of the pipelines radiate out from Chicago similar to the different railroads that radiate from Chicago thus paralleling each other. Great Lakes Basin Railroad would cross all of these lines at some point enroute with constant vibrations set up in the ground for several hours a day.

Thank you for addressing these concerns.

Douglas Gray
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Sent from my iPhone