

Dennis Rosengard
314 Ridge Court
Lowell, IN 46356

May 16, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20413-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

The purpose of my letter is to address the Public Scoping of the Great Lakes Treat Lakes Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) plans to construct and operate approximately 278 miles of rail line from La Porte, IN to Milton, WI. Here are some of my concerns and comments:

1. **Route Selection:** If the proposed route is adopted as indicated in the Google Earth KMZ Instruction Sheet, then specific provisions for overpasses or underpasses must be incorporated to insure public safety at grade crossings at each current State Highway, U. S. Highway and Interstate Highway. (Most notably in Indiana are State Routes 2, 49 and 55, U.S. Highway Routes 421, 30, 231 and 41, and Interstate Route 65.) Since 1972, railroads have invested in Operation Lifesaver (www.operationlifesaver.org) on a state by state basis. Grade level crossings are dangerous. Anything short of grade separation for new construction would amount to a change in public policy.
2. **Power Selection:** If the proposed route represents state of the art in route and design, then GLBT should give serious consideration to electrification of the main-line route. The route has access to numerous power lines and generating stations in Indiana and Illinois. During the 1973-1974 Arab Oil Embargo, some then existing Class I carriers were investigating electrification of their main lines. I know Indiana is very concerned about diesel exhaust emissions having an effect on our air quality. A diesel powered railroad will bring unwanted exhaust fumes into our area of south Lake County, IN, whereas electromotive power has much less pollution.

3. Hazard Situations: Recently, Tri-Creek School Corporation (Lowell, IN), built and occupied a new facility, Lowell Middle School, 19250 Cline Avenue. This building is near Mile Post 47, few hundred feet north of the GLBT grade crossing both Belshaw Road and Cline Avenue. School officials did their best planning for open space as far as I can tell, without knowledge the proposed line was going to be so close to proposed rail tracks that would be extremely dangerous. It has been reported that 111 trains per day, would be traversing south Lake County, IN. If this is correct, then it amounts to more than two trains each way, each hour). This amount activity is often cited

Recommendations:

1. Route Selection:
 - a. Recommend that GLBT be ordered to erect grade separation overpasses or underpasses at State, US and Interstate designated highway crossings.
 - b. Further recommend that GLBT be ordered to build grade separation that allows for doubling the number of highway traffic lanes within the next 20 years.
2. Power Selection:
 - a. Recommend that GLBT be ordered to have a fully electrified main line system for moving interchange traffic.
 - b. Further recommend that if run-through service is negotiated that GLBT provide that electric locomotive power so diesel power can be shut down while it traverses GLBT.
3. Hazardous Situations:
 - a. Recommend that GLBT furnish regular bus driver training to for grade crossing safety, which includes local police, fire and Emergency Treatment professionals.
 - b. Further recommend the amount of number of hazardous situations be cut by use of grade separation by overpasses and underpasses.

Please keep me informed in the next steps of the Board's Environmental Review Process.
Thank you for your efforts in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



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