

May - 2016

EI-25205 (rescan)

ATTN: DAVE NAVECKY -

I would first like to thank you for the very informative meeting you held for us at the Rochelle High School. Stayed to the end. I have many concerns regarding the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Docket # FD 35952. I have enclosed photos from 2013 + 2016 so you can get an idea just how much water does come down the Kilbuck Creek after a good rain. I live just East of the proposed rail line. The Kilbuck runs South to North, opposite most other creeks + rivers in the area. Even with 3 large culverts installed about 5 yrs ago, my hayfield (9 acres) and my neighbors pasture + cropland still goes completely under water. If anything is done to elevate land West of Chamberlain Road, I may as well forget about being able to get any hay off the 9 acres. As it is, I have lost my first cutting 2 yrs in a row because of the flooding. Flood water is dirty and leaves dirt on the grass as it flows by. It does not rinse off with rains that come afterwards. I had to sell it at a loss to someone with cattle, and had to buy hay for my animals. Rick Drendel is the road commissioner who takes care of Gillis Road where the tracks are planned to cross it. The Kilbuck runs under Gillis Rd very close to that area. The road washes out at least once every yr when the water level →

is high - usually in May + June. Both Chamberlain and Gillis are gravel roads and are very vulnerable to flood waters that run that fast. Rick Drendel gave a presentation that night at the High School and will vouch for my claims of flood waters.

I am also worried about the noise that will be unavoidable with each train as it passes by. I fear it will disrupt the breeding of my livestock. Perhaps with time they would get used to it but if they don't, and until they would, I could be in big trouble feeding animals that are costing me money while not producing.

I am also a person with major health problems. My breast cancer has returned 2 yrs ago. It's in my liver now. My boy friend is moving in to help me on the farm and to be my caregiver when that time comes. I will probably need emergency care now + again. The tracks would be between my house and the closest hospital in Rochelle.

In closing, I would like to say that I have been delighted to see those Bald Eagles flying over my house and the Kilbuck Creek towards Glenn Hansons Farm where they nest. For someone who gets excited about Cardinals, Crossbeaks + Orioles, you can imagine how I feel to see the Eagles!

Carol Warden

Enclosed Photos

4 from 2013: (6-29-13) Luckily my hay that year was baled 6-1-13.

- A. Standing on Chamberlain Rd looking East. Stone wall in foreground marks the horse pasture fence line. Kilbuck Creek runs between my pasture and my hay field. Pasture to the ~~to~~ left and hayfield to the right. Both under water.
- B. Moving South towards bridge over Kilbuck at Chamberlain Rd.
- C. Standing on bridge. Water almost hit the bridge bottom.
- D. "Wander" Lake as I call it. My 9 Acre hayfield completely under water.

3 from 2016 (5-12-16)

- E. Similar view as A. Pasture flooded and hay field starting to flood to the right.
- F. Bridge with me west of it + Chamberlain Rd. Water not as high as 2013, but still about 8-10 feet of very fast running flood water.

9. Drainage Ditch on the West Side of Chamberlain Rd. Looking South. One of the fairly new large culverts can be seen taking water from my flooded hayfield and neighbors cropland & pasture, putting it under Chamberlain Rd. Before the culverts were put in, Chamberlain Rd. would also wash out like Gillis still does once or twice a year. The Kilbuck runs northwest under Gillis. This year Lance Nokes cropland in this photo also went under water. His land is bordered by Gillis on the North and Chamberlain on the East. The proposed rail road will have a crossing at Gillis right next to the creek area that floods and washes out.

Neither of my 2 Children want to live in my home after I pass away, which may very well happen in less than 5 years. More + more people are finding out about this proposed railroad I plan to stay here, but I worry that the property value will go way down. The hay field is the only cropland I have, so my farm is more farmette than valuable for corn or soy beans. No one will want to buy the property with a train track so close. I worry that my sons will be stuck with land no one wants.





6/29/13



6/29/13

5/12/16



5/12/16



5/12/16





Carol Wander
3053 S Chamberlain Rd
Rochelle, IL 61068

forever
USA



Mountain Bluebird

forever



Western Tanager



USA FOREVER

DAVE NAVECKY
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20423-0001
DOCKET NO FD 35952



20423-0001

