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Docket No. FD 35952

Environmental Comment

Victoria Rutson, STB Director
Environmental Analysis

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Who specifically authorized your action to grant Great Lakes Basin Transportation (GLBT) managing partner Frank Patton a waiver of the mandatory six (6) month notification period? The word mandatory alone indicates that in order to approve a project such as a 278 mile long rail line it must go through a process that includes a proper application signed by the applicant stating that the information given is honest and truthful and has been submitted by a qualified person. No such application exists.

If the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) states that they have adequate information to grant this waiver, why can't we see that information? Why can't we see that information and why doesn't Mr. Patton have to sign an affidavit?

The six (6) months pre-filing notice for projects such as this one is regulated under 49 C.F.R.)(1105.10(a)(1) and in this case this was waived. Why and how was Frank Patton and GLBR able to be exempt from this regulation? What does he have to hide?

Until we get answers and until the proper procedure is followed we believe that this project should be denied and the study stopped. We need to know purpose and need for this rail line. We have been told it will transport over 2000 hazardous chemicals and materials over this rail line. Is Bakken oil going to be one of these hazardous materials? The people impacted by this project have a right to know.

You can contact me with answers to these questions at 219-552-4741 or email at moose1942@att.net

Patricia Mussman
Unincorporated West Creek Township
Lowell, Indiana