

Dave Navecky, Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 201423-0001

To whom it may concern:

We reside in Shirland, IL and are impacted by this new Railroad route. We are requesting that you open and extend the comment period for this newly declared route. We feel that it is only fair for us to have our concerns heard by this Board.

Our property will be potentially impacted by this new route since they can move the line five miles either way. We currently are within 3 miles of this route.

HOSPITAL ACCESS

One of the major concerns that anyone living west of this route is access being cut off or impeded by this rail line to **ALL THREE ROCKFORD, IL HOSPITALS**. This places all of our lives in danger from getting to our hospitals in that "golden hour". Imagine if that were you not being able to get your family member to the hospital in time. Our Emergency ambulances come from Rockton, IL or Durand, IL. This takes at least 15 minutes to get to our area. The Rockton ambulance would have to cross the tracks (provided there is a crossing) twice and the Durand ambulance would have to cross at least once. According to the Great Basin lakes literature, they plan on a potential of 110 trains per day running 24 seven which would mean a open crossing time of maybe every 15 minutes depending on the length of the train.

SCHOOL

This will also impact our Elementary and Jr. High School. It will be within a mile of this school, potentially putting them at risk if this train would derail and worse catch on fire. It at a minimum would delay students from being picked up and getting to school within a reasonable time frame.

We do not have the resources in our area to deal with a train derailment. We recently know of two trains derailing in Rockford, IL and one in Galena, IL so we know that we would be very vulnerable.

ENVIRONMENTAL

We live close to the Colored Sands forest preserve where we have over 500 different bird species migrate through on the way to Florida or Canada. I have worked at this center netting birds so they can be tracked and banded to keep an eye on the health of the different bird species. This train route passes very close to this area in the Shirland Township.

The **noise and frequency** of these trains passing by would impact these birds. If a train would derail and cause the water to become polluted it would impact not just the animals but our human population as well. We have a few critical rivers around us and we are all on Well water (private). Our ground water is critical to all of us. If this water gets tainted, polluted, it will contaminate it for several generations!

FARM LAND

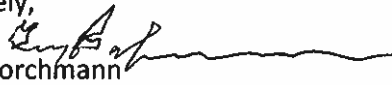
This route will desecrate hundreds of acres of precious farmland. It will split this land in two in some places which will impact farming that land. There will be no way to get to the other side of their land to farm. We grow a lot of corn, soybeans and wheat for the country. These farms in many cases have been in their families for over a hundred years. This is their lively hood!

In closing this railroad is not needed and from we can find out it isn't even needed or wanted. We understand that two of the rail companies have their own lines and have no plans to use this line! So why would they need it and especially the extra 200 feet that they are asking for????

Please strongly consider our right to have this comment period reopened and give us our right to be heard. Especially since this is a private venture and has no real merit or gain for our economy or environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,


Gary Borchmann

16795 Boswell Road
Rockton, IL 61072

Gary & Pippa Bascamano
16735 Bascamano Rd
Rockton IL 61072-6708



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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
ATTN: DOCKET # FD 3595a
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WASHINGTON, D.C. ~~20423-0001~~

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Phyllis Borchmann

16795 Boswell Road

Rockton, IL 61072

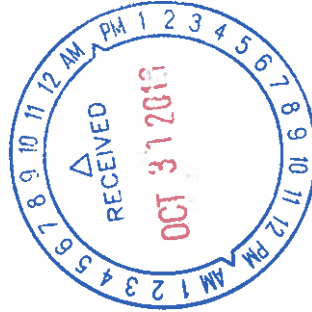


Gary & Phyllis Borchmann
16795 Boswell Rd.
Rockton, IL 61072-9708

CERTIFIED MAIL



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