

Environmental Impact Statement for Great Lakes Basin Rail Line to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

The proposed path of the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line intersects with nearby Terry Creek. We have seen the fish, *Moxostoma carinatum* River Redhorse, in Terry Creek and also in Horse Creek. The INHS state website http://neoforbes.inhs.uiuc.edu/animals_plants/fish/ilfish.html lists the river redhorse as "State Threatened." Both Horse Creek and Terry Creek are tributaries of the Kankakee River. The proposed path of the rail line crosses Horse Creek. When work was done on the Court Street- Route 17 bridge on the west side of Kankakee, the work was halted during the spawning season of this threatened fish. INHS and other agencies will probably point out other threatened and endangered species in the area.

One of the big things in the area of Salina Township, where we live, is drainage. Marshes were the norm before the manmade drainage ditches were added so that the land could be farmed. Sandy soils and a high water table exists in most of the Bonfield/Salina Township area. Any contamination released from the railway maintenance or spills will quickly seep into the aquifer which supplies drinking water to private wells in the area. If approved, the railway should be held accountable should any leachate enter the water supply... either in the Kankakee River or our private wells. Where would rural residents get their drinking water if our wells are polluted? It would have to come from more than 10 miles away.

The human toll would be the most devastating, but it seems to matter more to government agencies if a threatened species of animal or plant could be wiped out than if quality of life of an entire community of *Homo Sapiens* is destroyed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Leigh Marcotte
5383 N 11000w Rd
Bonfield, IL 60913