

ROCKVILLE TOWNSHIP

Supervisor, Richard Moran
Clerk, Sandra K. Moran

Trustee, Kevin Fregeau
Trustee, Michael Casagrande
Road Commissioner, Jon Whitten

Trustee, Gary Preston
Trustee, Richard Lade

Mr. Dave Navecky, docket #FD35952

Surface Transportation Board Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street, SW, Washington DC 20423-0001

RE: Docket No. FD 35952 Great Lakes Basin Transportation Corp, LLC Project

The Board of Trustees of Rockville Township, Kankakee County, Illinois, has voted unanimously to oppose Docket No. 35952 listed above and request that the Surface Transportation Board deny this proposal.

We request this proposal that would come through our township be denied on the following reasons/concerns:

1. Transportation Systems
 - a. Closing of township roads will have a negative impact on rural school bus routes, emergency responders and commute times.
 - b. Increased traffic on other township roads for access to crossing roads will be more than the rural roads were designed for and will increase costs of the township to maintain.
 - c. Some township roads will be divided due to road closures, making access for maintenance impractical if not impossible.
2. Safety Concerns
 - a. Increased response time for emergency vehicles due to closed roads, limited places of crossing, and wait times at crossings. Rockville Township is a rural area and the railroad would be directly between our township residents and the nearest emergency personnel.
 - b. Increased, specialized training and equipment will be required of fire and other emergency personnel for possibility of spills or derailments. This will be costly, and it is not known how this will be paid for.
 - c. Will alter the manpower requirements of police, fire, and medical personnel.
3. Impact on Current Land Use
 - a. Prime farmland of Rockville Township will be permanently destroyed.
 - b. Large fields will be divided into smaller fields. Access to some of the smaller fields may require farmers to drive several additional miles for access, increasing costs, risks to others on the roads.
4. Impact on Agricultural Activities
 - a. The railroad would be directly between farmers and the local grain elevator, their marketing outlet. This would force more farm equipment and large trucks on roads with a rail crossing, slowing and interfering with other traffic.
 - b. Some farmers will lose enough land to put them out of business.
 - c. There will be damage to existing farm tile systems.
5. Water Resources
 - a. Water flow will be disrupted/changed.
 - b. Drainage from the rail system is a concern, both from diversion of water flow and contaminants/pollution added to the water flow.

6. Geology and Soils
 - a. Risk to permanent soil damage from transport and possible leakage/drainage of oil and chemicals.
 - b. Disruption to farmland through construction.
 - c. Water flow/runoff changes would cause erosion.
7. Air Quality and Climate
 - a. One train every 15 minutes will add pollution to our air.
8. Noise and Vibration
 - a. One train every 15 minutes will increase noise 24 hours per day.
 - b. Residents near the line will feel near constant vibration and be disrupted 24 hours per day.
9. Socioeconomic
 - a. Our township is principally farmland. This will change farm income and costs for all our farmers, whether by losing farmland, increased transportation costs, changing equipment to fit field size, up to going out of business.
 - b. Decreased land values for surrounding farm properties, due to poor access, smaller fields, water and pollution impacts.
 - c. The railroad would take existing homes in addition to farmland, forcing families from their homes. These homes are built with money, labor and love of the land and the rural environment.
 - d. The lower tax base due to reduced values and fewer homes will directly impact the tax received by the township and the services the township is able to provide.
 - e. There is concern with this project being undertaken by a private company and whether there are enough funds for project completion. Rockville Township has previously experienced a project by a private entity with inadequate funds, being left with land subject to vandalism and unable to be farmed.
 - f. This company is a transportation company, not a rail company, with no prior record of building railroads.
10. Cumulative Impacts
 - a. The total impact to Rockville Township would be disruptive and destructive. Our rich land, roads, homes, way of life, and the environment would suffer.
11. Additional Issues
 - a. The proposed construction is "inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity". The residents of Rockville Township are the public whose lives would be inconvenienced and disrupted, without necessity, by a rail line built through the Township.
 - b. If this project meets the requirements of convenience and necessity, rail carriers would be anxious to participate. It is our understanding that none have agreed.
 - c. The requirements of convenience and necessity are not met by a private individual/entity wishing to take property for a project for a legacy for his offspring, as he stated at the meeting he attended.

I reiterate that Rockville Township, Kankakee County, Illinois, Board of Trustees has voted to oppose this project. On behalf of Rockville Township, we request you deny Docket No. FD 35952, taking into consideration the concerns and objections listed above.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Moran
Supervisor, Rockville Township

Cc: K. Fregeau, M. Casagrande, G. Preston, R. Lade, J. Whitten

ROCKVILLE TOWNSHIP
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RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED

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