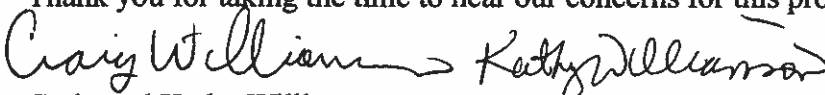


To: Surface Transportation Board
From: Mr and Mrs. Craig and Kathy Williamson
Reference: Great Lakes Basin Railroad Proposal
Docket #FD 35952

As residents that will be directly impacted by the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad, we would like to state our strong opposition to the project. The following are areas of concern that we have in regards to the project that is currently proposed in Grundy County and more specifically Norman Township, Grundy County Illinois.

1. The proposed railroad as presented will come within 300 feet of our residence that we built 11 years ago as our retirement home. The proposal appears to close our road at our residence which denies our access to the west from our residence. This is a hardship for us, making it necessary for us to drive 4 miles out of our way to go to the west. Also the property to the east of us has standing water on the roadway when we have heavy rains and this would give us no route of escape from our residence.
2. The proposed railroad will be in very close proximity to our well for our residence and could possibly effect the quality of our water from the drop off residue from the railroad locomotives and tank cars.
3. The consistent vibration of the trains traveling in such close proximity could cause structural damage to the drywall, plumbing and septic system for the residence.
4. The decibel level of noise will be detrimental to our quality of life.
5. The proposed route shows the tracks running at an angle directly into our residence and then following parallel with our bedroom, then angling once again across the front of the residence. The lights from the locomotive will be shining in the residence into our bedroom and living room.
6. Having a non grade track to increase the speed will require the tracks to be more elevated at our residence, causing more potential field flooding and also increasing the possibility of our house being more vulnerable in the chance of a derailment of the train.
7. Having been a local police officer for nearly 30 years, I am aware of what the local first responders are capable of with the available training and equipment and even though there are several good agencies, their response time to an incident makes it very volatile and dangerous for the home owners and general public.
8. Economic impact- We realize that you did not want to hear of personal issues, but this is an economic hardship. The value of our home is around the \$300,000.00 area and after a conversation with a local realtor, they advised that a similar home with the railroad in such close proximity would reduce the value to around \$185,000.00. This is our investment and to quote the petitioner, our "legacy for our children and grandchildren". We also are in a position that even if we wished to sell our residence now until this is decided one way or another, it would be totally unethical to sell our residence without disclosing to the potential buyer this railroad running next to the residence.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns for this project. It is greatly appreciated.



Craig and Kathy Williamson
5680 W Indian Trail Rd
Verona, Ill 60479

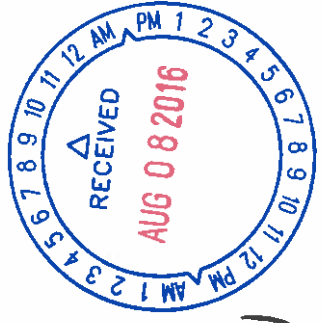


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