

EI-24131



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line Project, Docket No. FD 35952

Albino, David - PSC

to:

david.navecky@stb.dot.gov

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From: "Albino, David - PSC" <David.Albino@wisconsin.gov>

To: "david.navecky@stb.dot.gov" <david.navecky@stb.dot.gov>

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Mr. Navecky,

I am the interim administrative law judge at the State of Wisconsin's Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR). Our primary focus is promoting the public safety and the means to accomplish it, whether by relocation of a highway; the alteration in railroad highway crossing, approaches, mode of crossing, or location of highway crossing; closing of highway crossing, with or without the substitution of another; the construction of a public highway bridge; the removal of obstructions to sight at crossing; and in case of new crossings, the advisability of allowing such crossings considering public necessity, convenience, safety, and economics.

I am trying to determine whether to recommend the filing of comments to the Draft Scope of Study for the EIS.

Wisconsin statutes require that either a municipality or a railroad petition the OCR for establishing a new crossing. The Draft Scope for the EIS for the above project proposes to include a discussion, under the safety subcategory, that:

- a. Describes road/rail grade crossing safety and analyzes the potential for an increase in accidents related to the proposed rail operations, as appropriate.
- b. Describes existing rail operations and analyzes the potential for increased probability of train accidents, as appropriate.
- c. Analyzes the potential for disruption and delays to the movement of emergency vehicles from any new at-grade crossings and road closures that could accompany the construction and operation of the proposed rail line.
- d. Proposes mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or eliminate potential project impacts on safety, as appropriate.

Is the STB looking for states and/or the Federal Railroad Administration to submit comments as to whether the safety sub-category should be included (or amended) in the Final Scope of Study for the EIS? If so, would the GLBT at some point provide the necessary data or engineering studies to facilitate analysis of the proposed new crossings?

Thanks.

David Albino

Administrative Law Judge
Office of the Commissioner of Railroads
610 N. Whitney Way, Ste 110
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854
(Office) 608-266-7706
(Cell) 608-772-3660