



Kankakee County Communication Center

2380 West Station St. Kankakee, Illinois 60901 815 937-3911 fax 815-935-3370

June 23, 2016

EI-25277

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
DOCKET No.: FD 35952 - Great Lakes Basin Transportation Corp, LLC Project
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

On behalf of the Kankakee County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB), I am seeking information to be addressed in the Environmental and Economic Impact Statement for the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. project. The overriding concern of the Board involves the safety of the citizens and the first responders of Kankakee County.

The ETSB has built out a county-wide radio system used by all public safety responders throughout the county. The proposed rail line runs within 400 feet of the communication tower in Salina Township and within a two mile radius of the Yellowhead Township site. Loss of any site would have a crippling effect on communication for our first responders.

- Should an incident occur at any point of the rail line, what is the projected debris field?
- How does the vibration from rail traffic affect computer and electronic components sensitive in nature?
- What is the timeline for a hazardous material clean up that would restrict access to maintain the site?

New stations or increased personnel could impact the channel capacity of the existing communication system thus requiring additional infrastructure to an organization that is already underfunded.

- What accommodations are being made to prevent fire districts, EMS responders and police agencies from having to build out new stations, substations or increase personnel in order to ensure response times are not impacted by the proposed rail line?

The ETSB also is the oversight authority to KanComm, Kankakee Counties Consolidated Communication Center. KanComm is responsible for dispatch services to 16 fire protection districts and EMS agencies as well as 13 police agencies. Should response plans for the agencies served require changes, the

• **Emergency Telephone System Board** •

ETSB could be faced with having to increase staffing levels to meet the needs of agencies requiring mutual aid from alternate locations or outside agencies. The general nature of railroads increase call volume from our citizens with malfunctioning gates, blocked crossings, suspicious activity, and trespassing.

- How is additional revenue generated within the communities to fund the resources necessary to accommodate the increase costs?
- What training is provided to assure our staff is able to handle the calls efficiently and effectively?

We believe these concerns should be addressed by Surface Transportation Board through a full Environmental and Economic Impact Statement.

Sincerely,



Tammy Peterson
9-1-1 Coordinator



**Kankakee County
Communication Center**

2380 West Station St. Kankakee, Illinois 60901

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