

EI-24901



Re: Email concerning GLB Rail Line and lack of response.

James Marshall

to:

David.Navecky

07/07/2016 03:16 PM

Hide Details

From: James Marshall <jim1111@icloud.com>

To: David.Navecky@stb.dot.gov

History: This message has been forwarded.

Thank you for your response Dave. I recognize you must be swamped with this project but I wanted to make sure my sentiment was recorded since I was unable to make the meetings.

Jim

On Jul 07, 2016, at 01:12 PM, David.Navecky@stb.dot.gov wrote:

Mr. Marshall -

Thank you for your comments. To date, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has received roughly 3,000 comments on the proposed rail line project. Although we would like to respond to or acknowledge each individual comment, it is, unfortunately, impossible considering the volumes of comments we are receiving. I want to assure you, however, that your comments will assist the STB in finalizing our Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Statement. When the Final Scope of Study is completed, you will be notified of its availability. Once the scope is finalized, we will then begin developing the technical methodologies to address the issues outlined in the Final Scope of Study.

Kind regards,

Dave

Dave Navecky
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
202-245-0294
<http://www.stb.dot.gov>

From: James Marshall <jim1111@icloud.com>

To: RutsonV@stb.dot.gov

Date: 07/07/2016 09:18 AM

Subject: Email concerning GLB Rail Line and lack of response.

Dear Ms. Rutson,

I am contacting you because I have sent two emails to David Navecky with my concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line in Illinois and I have not received any type of response. I understand that Mr. Navecky is in the process of reviewing the proposal and, as a long time land owner in the area, I felt the need to express my opposition to the project. I am not sure what the proper protocol is in responding to such emails, and I am certain that Mr Navecky is quite busy reviewing all the pertinent information, however I would expect some type of response in order for me to know my concerns were being heard. This is especially troubling since Mr Navecky is listed as the principal contact for the project review by the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,
James Marshall
Deldun Farms LLC

Begin forwarded message:

From: James Marshall <jim1111@icloud.com>
Date: June 04, 2016 10:13:24 AM
To: david.navecky@stb.dot.gov
Subject: Mr Navecky, concerning the GLB Rail Line:

Mr Navecky,

I sent you an email on 4/14 outlining my opposition to the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line that is being discussed as a possible solution to bypass the rail congestion around Chicago. I stated that one of my fears was that the rail line would be used for the transportation of oil to the refineries near the Gulf of Mexico and that the very real possibility of derailment would be a true disaster for the surrounding communities. I am not sure if you read that email since I did not receive a response from you.

I wanted to take this opportunity to point out a railroad accident that recently occurred in Oregon that is exactly what I fear could happen on the GLB line. A train carrying oil derailed causing a great degree of damage to both the environment and the local way of life. If you are not familiar with the incident, I have included a link to the story:

<http://katu.com/news/local/train-catches-fire-outside-mosier-in-the-columbia-river-gorge-oil-smoke-hood-river>

I would appreciate a response to my email and, in particular, how you plan to address my concerns.

Sincerely,
James Marshall

4/14 email:

Dear Mr. Navecky

I am writing you as a concerned land owner in Kanakee and Will Counties in Illinois to voice my opposition over the proposed plan to build the Great Lakes Basin Rail line. My family has been a land owner in the area of the proposed project for well over 100 years and we pride ourselves in supporting the needs of the agricultural community.

Upon inspecting the details of the proposed rail line project I was shocked at the potential for environmental damage due to fact that the rail line will be transporting oil and other dangerous chemicals. To be sure, the environmental issues that surround this project are not entirely different than the environmental issues that surrounded the XL Keystone pipeline (which, as you know was vetoed by President Obama). Specifically, the risk of a spill and it's impact on the environment and on the population of the affected area. Further more, the area of the proposed project is also the location of an aquifer system similar to the system located in the Sand Hills area and just as important to the region. Above all, what I find most troubling is the fact that transporting oil and other hazardous chemicals by rail car is far riskier that transporting them by pipeline as I am sure you are aware. In reference to the estimates for significant spills associated with the XL Keystone Pipeline that ranged from 11 to 91 in the projected 50 year life span of the pipeline, I would be curious to know what the projected number of spills for this project will be. It should also be pointed out that pipeline spills generally occur at isolated spots where a train could derail anywhere!

I have no doubt the STB will be taking a detailed look at this project and I am confident that the environmental issues that I have raised are already being considered. What amplifies my concern is the lack of rail road experience the leaders of GLB Rail Line have and their inability to develop a plan to respond to any safety concerns that no doubt will arise from the project. Also, I would think the question of why this project was not proposed by one of the major rail carriers who have the benefit of decades of experience when it comes to building rail road lines would need to be examined.

In conclusion the last question that should be asked is spending \$8 billion and disrupting the livelihood of countless agricultural professionals worth saving a meager 15-20 hours on a rail road shipment?

Sincerely,
James Marshall
Deldun Farms LLC