



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line
Adverse impacts on student safety, learning, and health

School Corporation Information

- The school corporation serves the students of Kouts (Pleasant Township), Morgan Township, and Washington Township
- The school corporation covers 130 square miles
- Thirty five bus routes
- Presently approximately 16 railroad crossings throughout the school corporation.

Our Concerns

Railroad crossings in East Porter County

- Presently – approximately 16 railroad crossings
- With proposed rail line – approximately 31 railroad crossings
- Almost a 100% increase in railroad crossings

Avoid railroad crossings whenever possible to reduce the likelihood of collision.

In an average year, more people die in highway-rail crossing collisions than in commercial airline crashes.

A motorist is almost 20 times more likely to die in a crash involving a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.

In a collision between a train and a school bus, the train always wins.

A train hitting a bus is like a bus hitting a pop can – it's no contest.

Our Concerns

Collisions

Porter County (2015) – 130 crossings and 6 collisions

How many more collisions will there be with twice the number of crossings just in the school corporation?

Derailments – Spills of hazardous materials

The proposed rail line comes within one-half mile of Morgan Township Schools. What hazardous material will be transported on the rail line? How will the health and safety of our students and staff be impacted by a spillage?

Our Concerns

Emergency Vehicle Access

- County roads will be cut off by the rail line.
- Response time for emergency vehicles to reach schools will be extended.
- Longer response time jeopardizes health and safety.

Bus Route Length

- County roads will be cut off by the rail line.
- Bus routes will have to be lengthened, requiring students to board the bus earlier in the morning and arriving home later after school. Students will be on the bus longer.

Our Concerns

Noise Pollution

The proposed rail line would be located just one-half mile from Morgan Township Schools.

- 110 trains a day
- 110 decibel horn (average human pain threshold)
- The horn must be sounded at each crossing for 15-20 seconds.
- One crossing one-half mile from the school.
- One crossing X 110 trains X 15 second horn blast = 27.5 hours per day of train horn pollution. Or, more than round-the-clock train horn blasts.
- Children are more sensitive to loud noises than adults.
- Students in a school next to an elevated train were one year behind in reading ability.
- World Health Organization – Maximum acceptable noise level for a school playground – 55 decibels. Each increase of 10 decibels means twice the perceived loudness. A 110 decibel train horn is 32 times as loud as 55 decibels, the maximum acceptable level for a school playground.

Our Concerns

- Other problems with excess noise –
 - Compromised learning
 - Stress
 - High blood pressure
 - Increased heart rate leading to cardiovascular disease
 - Distraction
 - Lost productivity

Excessive noise has the potential to disrupt routine activities, which can affect the overall quality of life, especially in residential areas.

Our Concerns

Air Pollution

- Diesel exhaust from locomotives contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants, carcinogens, ozone smog-forming compounds and fine particulate matter ("soot"). Exposure to fine particles is known to cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, lung cancer, strokes and even premature death.
- The proposed rail line would be one-half mile from Morgan Township Schools.
- 110 trains a day



for the sake of our children

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