

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. FD 35952

GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC.—RAIL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION—IN ROCK COUNTY, WISC., WINNEBAGO, OGLE, LEE, LASALLE, GRUNDY, AND KANKAKEE COUNTIES, ILL., AND LAKE AND PORTER COUNTIES, IND.

Decided: May 9, 2017

On May 1, 2017, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) filed an application, pursuant to 49 U.S. C. § 10901, seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate an approximately 261-mile rail line. According to GLBT, the proposed rail line would extend around the area of Chicago, Ill., through counties in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

The Board is interested in encouraging public participation by all interested persons in this proceeding. To help create a comprehensive record on the transportation merits that embodies the full spectrum of interests involved and to facilitate the ability of individual private citizens to participate in that process, the service requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1104.12(a), which require every document filed with the Board to be served upon all parties to the proceeding, and 49 C.F.R. § 1150.10(g), which require each comment filed in application proceedings under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 to be served on the applicant, will be waived for individual private citizens who wish to file comments on the transportation merits of the application. Thus, filings made by individual private citizens will be included in the public record of this proceeding (and posted on the Board's website) regardless of whether the filings comply with the service requirements of § 1104.12(a) and § 1150.10(g). All other parties of record, including citizen organizations, are expected to comply with the Board's service requirement regulations and serve comments on the transportation merits of the proposed project on all parties of record listed on the Board's service list for this proceeding.¹

¹ The environmental review process, which is undertaken by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), is separate from the agency's consideration of comments on the transportation merits of the proposed project. Correspondence commenting on the environmental impacts of the proposed project may be submitted to OEA (for example, through the Board's e-filing system under "Environmental Correspondence") and need not be served on any other parties, regardless of whether the commenter is a private individual or any other entity.

It is ordered:

1. The service requirements under 49 C.F.R. §§ 1104.12(a) and 1150.10(g) are waived for individual private citizens filing comments on the transportation merits of the application.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.