

K. Kenny - LeRoy Township Trustee
copy of oral comments - Mtg Board 4/18/2016

Thank you for coming to Boone County. We welcome you and appreciate your time.

Developers of various kinds have come to Boone County. Enbridge has run an oil pipeline through our County, another wanted to slant drill for our water resources, a wind developer wanted to erect 100 - 500 ft wind turbines through the northern part of our County to use our land as a utility closet for the greater Chicago area and now a private developer wants to use our County for a railroad corridor.

I am giving you a copy of the LeRoy Township Comprehensive Plan. We are just one of the nine townships in Boone County. Illinois Compiled Statutes Chapter 60, gives townships the right to develop comprehensive plans through township planning commissions.

This Land Use Plan provides the direction for the orderly development of land uses while supporting the protection of the resources of LeRoy Township.

As you can see on page 2, some of our Objectives match your impact categories that will be analyzed by your board.

Promoting the preservation of agricultural lands in LeRoy Township as it relates to the 1981 "Right to Farm" Act was written with the purpose of stopping urban expansion into prime agriculture land. This protects farmland and reduces conflicts between incompatible uses and prohibits Industrial and limits Commercial land uses in classified agricultural areas.

The pipeline located in our Township is a crude oil line transporting tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada. This heavy crude oil is diluted with a toxic mix of hydrocarbons.

Will the train's vibrations to the ground cause extra stress on this pipeline only buried 4-5 feet deep? If the pipeline would rupture, the Township would not only have an oil spill but a spill of highly toxic hydrocarbons, which can leach into the groundwater.

On Page 6 of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan we ask ourselves 10 questions in order to evaluate a land use request in our township. I will substitute the word railroad for land use since that is the land use request before us.

1. Will the railroad be beneficial to the general welfare, safety, and health of the residents in the immediate area and the general population of Leroy Township?
2. Does the railroad fulfill a significant need in Leroy Township?
3. Will the railroad encourage local business opportunity for the community and is compatible with the area?
4. Will the railroad promote and encourage a farmer friendly environment?
5. Will the railroad overburden the natural resources of Leroy Township?
 - i. Farm land
 - ii. Ground water
 - iii. Watershed(s)
6. Will the railroad adversely influence living conditions due to a type of pollution?
7. Will the railroad create an isolation of the special land use?
8. Will the railroad create additional environmental problems due to soils, vegetation, slope, or floodplain?
9. Is the subject property physically suitable for the purposes of the railroad?
10. Will the railroad diminish the rural character in the Township?

Our constituents have told us that they are concerned about our board holding someone else responsible for putting up gates at every crossing, maintaining these gates, and insisting that bridges be maintained, because this will become an extra burden to our township leaders with no benefits to our township.

I ask you to deny granting GLB an exemption and urge you instead to require a full and vigorous Environmental Impact Study to be performed.