

Additional Information on the Application of Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.

What is happening? On Monday, May 1, 2017, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) filed a formal application with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for authority to build and operate a 261 mile rail line through parts of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. The case is Docket No. **FD 35952**.

How can I get a copy of GLBT's application? GLBT's application is publicly available on the "Filings" page of the STB's website: www.stb.gov/filings/all.nsf/WebFilingDate?openform

Does this mean that GLBT can begin construction? No. GLBT cannot start construction unless and until the STB grants permission. Before the STB can grant permission, the agency must thoroughly review the legal merits of GLBT's application and consider the environmental impacts of the project.

What does "legal merits" mean? By law, GLBT must show that building and operating the proposed rail line is not inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity (PC&N). In applying the PC&N standard, the STB looks at the overall benefits to freight transportation that would be achieved, as well as many other economic and operational factors. The STB will also consider environmental factors. Based on its findings, the STB determines whether to grant or deny the application.

What is the next step that the STB will take? The STB will review GLBT's application for completeness – meaning, does it contain all the information required by our regulations? If the STB finds that the application is complete, then it will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. A copy of the notice will also appear on the "Decisions" page of the STB's website: www.stb.gov/decisions/readingroom.nsf/WebServiceDate?openform

- There is no specific deadline by which the STB must decide completeness. Rather, the agency must do so as soon as possible.

If the application is incomplete, then the STB will reject it.

How can I participate? Under the STB's regulations, public comments on GLBT's application must be filed within 35 days of the filing date of the application (June 5). GLBT has 5 days to respond. **However**, the STB could issue a preliminary decision that sets deadlines for opening and reply comments (which could be different from the deadlines in the regulations) and covers other procedural aspects for handling the case – that is, assuming the application is complete.

How do I file comments? Comments may be filed on paper (hard copy) or electronically. Any person using "e-filing" should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-FILING link on the STB's website, at <http://www.stb.gov>. Any person submitting paper comments should send an original and 10 copies to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: Docket No. FD 35952, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. Comments will be posted to the STB website. Except as provided below, comments must be served on GLBT and all other case participants, and must contain a statement certifying service.

- On May 9, 2017, the STB issued a decision waiving service requirements for comments filed by individual private citizens.

How can I stay updated on filings and decisions related to this case? The best way to keep up to date with filings and decisions is to check in regularly on the "Filings" and "Decisions" pages of our website, under Docket No. **FD 35952**.

How does the filing of GLBT's application relate to the STB's environmental review of the project? The STB's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) began environmental review in March 2016. OEA was still in the initial phase of review (public scoping) when GLBT asked OEA to suspend its work. The suspension remains in effect. OEA will update the public on the project website if and when the suspension is lifted.

When will the STB issue a final decision on GLBT's application? There is no deadline for the STB to issue a final decision that grants or denies GLBT's application. As noted above, a decision cannot be issued until the merits are thoroughly analyzed and all environmental review is complete.

Who can I contact for more information? Please contact the STB's Rail Customer and Public Assistance Office at (202) 245-0238 or (866) 254-1792.

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