

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

What is happening? On May 1, 2017, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) filed a formal application with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for permission 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 gives 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 test, 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? On June 2, 2017, the STB found that GLBT's application lacked certain details required by regulation, and instructed GLBT to supplement its application by June 22. The STB stated that, **if**, after receiving further information, the agency finds GLBT's application to be complete then it will publish a formal notice in the Federal Register. The notice will set deadlines for interested persons to file comments. Accordingly, the Board suspended the cut-off for public comments, which was June 5.

How can I participate? Interested persons can submit comments to the Board.

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. Individual private citizens do not need to serve their comments on other parties. All other parties must serve their comments on the applicant **only**.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: This document was prepared by the Rail Customer and Public Assistance (RCPA) Program of the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Opinions provided by RCPA employees are theirs alone, and do not represent official opinions of, or by, the STB or its Commissioners or Directors. Official opinions of the STB may only be obtained through a formal proceeding. Guidance offered by RCPA employees is not binding, and might not be followed by the STB should a formal proceeding be initiated. Spoken or written comments may be withdrawn by the STB at its discretion.