



EO-2887

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 3, 2017

Frank Patton, Chairman
Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.
23860 State Line Road
Crete, IL 60417

RE: FD No. 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.—Construction and Operation—in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana; Response to GLBT's February 28, 2017 Request to Extend Suspension of Environmental Review

Dear Mr. Patton:

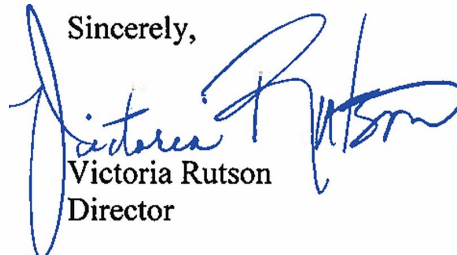
I have received your letter dated February 28, 2017, which provided an update on the status of Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.'s (GLBT's) application to the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking construction and operation authority for a new 278-mile rail line. In your letter, you request that OEA extend the current suspension of its environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act until April 30, 2017, at which time GLBT will either file the application or provide another status report.

Clearly, GLBT's ongoing discussions with potential customers, shippers, and other parties are necessary to glean information needed for both the application and OEA's environmental review of this complex proposal. Therefore, I will grant your most recent request to extend the suspension of the environmental review process.

However, the Board is mindful of the need to move forward expeditiously with the environmental review process, as well as the project's potential impact on affected communities. The Board will anticipate receiving your application on or before May 1, 2017. If you are unable to file, OEA will cease all work on the environmental review of GLBT's proposal, including taking down the project website (www.greatlakesbasinraileis.com).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Kenneth Blodgett at Kenneth.Blodgett@stb.gov or (202) 245-0305.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Director

Cc: Kathryn Floyd
Jay Johnson