

October 13, 2010

Ms Tamara E. Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
1617 East Racine Ave. Room 101
Waukesha, WI 53186

RE: Public Comment and Public Hearing Request on 1999-06281-SEK, Section 404

Dear Ms Cameron,

I write to you requesting the Army Corps or Engineers to hold a public hearing on the Section 404 permit for the first phase of the passenger rail service project between Milwaukee and Madison. I greatly appreciate your time on this important matter to Wisconsin's environment and its taxpayers.

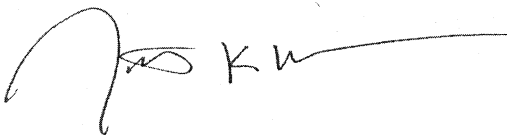
According to the application submitted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), over 23.85 acres of Wisconsin wetlands would be impacted by the project. Of these 23.85 acres, the new application identifies 5.43 acres east of Watertown that will be impacted as well. These wetlands were not identified at the time of the last public hearing, which was held over nine years ago in June of 2001.

Wisconsin has a long tradition of environmental stewardship and open government. However, with the fast tracking of this project, both of these tenants are in jeopardy. The public has the right to publically share concerns and submit questions regarding the project and its impact on the identified wetlands. In addition, since the new application impacts wetlands that were previously not indentified by the DOT, additional scrutiny and public input is vital before any action is taken on this permit.

As I mention earlier, transparency in the permitting process is critical to ensure that all federal and state laws are being followed. An open public hearing will provide stakeholders with critical information on the project's impact on the additional wetlands, including the 5.43 new acres that were not previously identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK Walker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott K. Walker

cc: Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Commanding General
US Army Corps Engineers
Washington DC 20314