

Dear Mr Marx

I would like to share a few of my thoughts regarding the Intermodal facility to be located near Gardner, Kansas. I am not an environmentalist or an expert on pollution just a person who has made a few observations over the past seventy years. There are two major facts I do understand. You have a short period of time to make your final decision and your decision will affect this area for several hundred years. I will only attempt to point out a few observations I have made.

- Transportation Hubs - They make a significant impact no matter what they are or where they are located.
- Rail Hubs - I was raised in Dodge City and just last week I observed how little the railroad is used but the lasting negative affect it has on that city more than 150 years later. The bottoms in Kansas City once a major cattle/rail hub for the entire country is used very little today. What you see there today will probably never change because the cost of renovation is too expensive.
- Hillsdale Lake - I moved to Gardner in 1966 and at that time the city was sending several city officials to Washington D.C. to lobby for Hillsdale Lake to be constructed as a necessary long term water source for this entire area. The Corp has done a great job reminding people this is a water source first and secondly a recreation facility. This lake is currently the primary water source for a large area covering several counties. I am not an expert but any contamination of this water source would have long lasting effects on many cities and people. After such a large investment of time and money

I would hope the Corp would protect this lake by performing the most complete environmental study possible.

• Bull Creek Park & Milldale Farm - South-West Johnson County has waited 30 years for a significant major park this is a large investment and this facility would divide it in half. I seriously doubt any family would choose to spend their recreational time at a park located adjacent to a rail yard.

Chicago Facility - I had the opportunity to visit the Elwood St. site about a year ago. Some of my observations were ① It was originally a military ammunition site ② There was an oil refinery already located on one corner of the site ③ It was served by more than one four lane highway ④ It was very unlikely the land could have been used for residential development. ⑤ The site was not sandwiched between two growing metro cities. ⑥ The facility served warehouses in a 20 to 30 mile radius so location is not critical for intermodal operations.

I-35 and 56 Highway - Driving Interstate 35 will soon educate you on the need for major repairs and expansion. I see no possible way to keep truck traffic from passing through the center of Gardner on Highway 56. This negative impact on Gardner must be considered when ~~consider~~ locating such a large facility. Placing this facility further away from the metro area would disperse the congested truck traffic and create a more manageable flow of auto and truck transportation.

These are just a few of my observations. I have served on the Gardner City Council at different times totaling over fourteen years and several years on the planning commission. I spent 31 years in the Gardner educational system and drove large trucks

every summer for 20 years. My roots are deep and my passion is strong for this community. I hope your group will seek every opportunity possible to study all the ramifications this facility will have on the complete area. The most important point is this, your decision will be felt and observed by everyone Two Hundred years from now. Once it is transformed into a rail facility it will Never be converted or renewed to any other use no matter what the economic trends dictate.

I apologize for this handwritten letter but time was short and I guess I'm too much old school. Thanks for your attention to this critical issue. An extension of the Public Comment ~~period~~ could assist you in making the correct decision.

Yours Truly
 John H. Shepherd
 John H. Shepherd
 President, Gardner City Council

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