

March 2, 2023

Rob Barnikel  
16 Josephine Lane  
Ft. Salonga, NY 11768

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

Carlson Corporation has fast tracked the construction and operation of a line of railroad in the hamlet of Kings Park, NY and received a waiver for a full environmental impact study.

Why would a good partner of the neighborhood not want to be open and transparent with the community? A full environmental study will uncover their many misdeeds of illegal dumping and sand mining. Why has Carlson Corporation operated for over 50 years without the proper permits? Within the last 2-3 month there is newly mined sand mountains of over 75 feet on the proposed location of the Rail Terminal. Have they started the construction without permits?

The Carlson Corporation STB petition raises many red flags.

1: The conceptual layout stipulates a 500 ft. setback. The measurement does not start on their property line but on the north side of the LIRR property, which makes their track facility much closer to the private neighborhood. The five tracks and material storage enclosures proposed are to the north of track facility making this ill-conceived project even closer to private residence.

2: Details of noise are not addressed. Will the train whistles blow in the middle of every night as the trains enter and exit the proposed rail yard.

3: One of the main motivations for supporters of this project are less trucks hence less air pollution. How is Covanta Energy going to get the ash from their plant to the proposed yard? There will be no decrease in trucks due to this project.

4: Will the trains on the five tracks be diesel? The requested spur is off the Port Jefferson line of the LIRR which is not electrified in this area. All trains running on the line west of Huntington are diesel and pollute the air.

5: What is the elevation of the track structures proposed?

6: Will Carlson Corp move the organic waste by rail they currently compost of the property, even though it is not included in the petition.

Carlson Corporation has a poor track record of environmental compliance and the various items I've listed above support a decision of denial of their application.

Alternatively, if the Board is inclined to proceed with further evaluation of this ill-conceived project, I would respectfully request the Board issue a Positive Declaration under NYS 617 SEQRA regulations. With a thorough Environmental Impact Statement to study the well known possible adverse negative impacts. The SEQRA process should be transparent and avail the public input via public hearings. As I am sure you are aware, SEQRA requires literal compliance (Matter of King Civic Association n Town of RYE 82 A.D 2d Dept 1981). Accordingly, the SQRA process must be addressed first, and only then can the Board discuss, evaluate and vote on the merits of the application itself.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectively,  
Rob Barnikel

