

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E. Street SW
Room 1034
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 10, 2023
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No AB 768X – Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad (MAN)
Docket No AB 180X – Lowville Beaver River Railroad (LBRR)

Comments opposing the abandonment

My name is Barry Lyndaker and I am writing to oppose the abandonment of the 2 rail lines, Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad (MAN) and Lowville Beaver River Railroad (LBRR). I recently won a primary for Lewis County Legislator Dist. #4 with 68% of the vote. I sent out a poll to 560 households a total of 837 people in my district and 75% of those people were against the purchase of the rail line.

I previously worked for Severson Environmental Services for 15 years, one of the largest environmental companies in the country. While working for them I assisted with cleaning up many contaminated sites along the rail lines. I know that some very dangerous chemicals can be found along the rails right of way which includes: creosote, herbicides, petroleum products, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, even arsenic just to name a few. We need to be careful with what we do along the railway. These rails run through the Castorland wetlands that drain into the Black River which supplies water to the City of Watertown who have 26,000 inhabitants and also Fort Drum our military base. The County legislators cannot be trusted to do the right and responsible procedure with removal of contaminated soil.

I have recently have witnessed the County removing contaminated soil that was removed to build the new County Highway Dept. When they started this project, they tried to take this soil to 2 different sites on the East Road, they were stopped because there was strong odor of fuel and they stockpiled it above the County garage. They have now moved this contaminated soil in between the LBRR and MAN right of way before this rail line has been abandoned. The County legislators cannot be trusted to do the right and responsible with contaminated areas along the railroad.

I am asking that you reject the application for abandonment of the MAN and LBRR for the above reasons.

Sincerely,
Barry Lyndaker
7708 East Road
Lowville, NY 13367
315-783-6251
CC: parties of record