

Andrea Poole, Environmental Protection Specialist

Surface Transportation Board

Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36575

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423

Dear Specialist Poole,

My name is David Pontillo, and I am a resident of Kings Park, New York. I am writing to you in order to voice my opposition to the Townline Rail Terminal (Doc #FD36575). I believe this project will negatively impact several communities, most notably my own, here in Kings Park.

I have read the recently made available Draft Environmental Assessment of the Townline Rail Terminal's Proposed Construction and Operation of A Line of Railroad. After reading it, I find that I am still quite troubled by this proposed project. I am not at all convinced that the construction and operation of this terminal will be good for the citizens of Kings Park, or its environment. In the Draft, Carlson asserted that its proposal was "time sensitive" due to the closure of Brookhaven. It seems to me that this is just another way of saying "hurry up" or, more appropriately "*Don't* look before you leap". Due to this "pressure", the public, and our officials, may not realize the impact Carlson's proposal will have on Kings Park and other areas along the rail lines. I contend that this project will have many negative effects on the people right near the proposed rail and terminal, as well as the community at large.

Certainly, the construction and operation of the rail terminal will damage the environment for those people living near the terminal. When it came to the actual operations of the terminal and how it might impact the area, I read several times in the Draft that Carlson "estimates", "expects", "not planning on", etc.; such vague statements coming from the companies that will surely profit from this is not comforting. Since so much of the proposal is based on their estimates, I wonder how do we know, with any degree of comfort or certainty, that the pollution and problems arising from this will not be much, much worse than Carlson is "estimating".

Finally, I am very concerned over what will be carried on this rail line and what will be stored at the terminal. Based upon how it stands now, Carlson will have to accept materials from others upon reasonable request, as a "common carrier". Thus, the board could require Carlson to transport more waste on the line, which only increases the risk of pollution. Such decisions would thus be out of the hands of the people and their duly elected local representatives. In the end, that means that more waste could be transported and stored at the Townline Rail Terminal, and there would be nothing that could be done about it, and it will be the people of Kings Park that will truly pay the price.

The construction of the Townline Rail Terminal will have a detrimental effect on the neighborhood surrounding the proposed site. While Carlson says that everything will be fine, I am not convinced; too much of their proposal as explained in the Draft is based on Carlson's "estimates", and since they themselves state that this proposal is "time sensitive", I am very concerned that we do not have the whole picture, and that as a result mistakes will be made, and the Terminal will cause more noise, air, and ground pollution than anyone "estimates". And by that point, it will be too late, and the families of Kings Park will suffer for it. It is my sincerest hope that this proposal will be rejected, and that the Towline Rail Terminal will not be built. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Pontillo

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