

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

Re: Docket No AB 768 – Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad (MAN)
Docket No AB 180 – 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 know that this letter is late, but I just received this information and realized that the county can't be trusted to make proper decisions in the disposing of contaminated soil without jeopardizing their own citizens property and livelihood.

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 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. I finally have the documentation that the soil was contaminated and am attaching it to a filing. I am going to try to attach documentation of this soil contamination. It is very lengthy and 2 documents.

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

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