

I am writing in response to the proposed garbage train right of way using the abandoned Erie Lackawanna Railroad grade going through Brockport, Pennsylvania, north to the Greentree landfill.

Since the abandonment of said railroad, all maintenance has ceased along both the north and south embankments of the railroad grade, causing water damming, wetlands developing, harboring pockets of water containing sulfur and possibly other contaminants from the prior decades of mining north of the railroad grade.

This has created flooding issues due to the lack of maintenance and drainage. Therefore, the new railroad company being developed by Landrights, LLC will need to rectify all drainage issues along the said railroad.

The Toby Creek has been a great testimony of how a community cleaned up the sulfur caused by years of mining and now there is a wonderful trout fishing creek and much freshwater wildlife and wetlands wildlife and plants.

Due to the lack of maintenance and drainage, the serious issue is Toby Creek would not be able to accept the extra volume of water that all the “proper” drainage and drainage repair would cause the extra flow of water along with any sulfur and contaminants that will be leached into the Toby Creek Clean Up Project.

As of now, the Creek floods over US Route 219 at various locations. To add volumes of water and new drainage will only cause a more serious and emergency situation, due to the fact that the flood water, and pressure, will back water up into the Brockport area.

Raising the flood plain will damage property, wildlife and years of bringing Toby Creek up to the beautiful fishing creek it is. With this said, the only possible remedy would be to dredge or stretch the Toby Creek creek bed, which would introduce massive volumes of sulfur and destroying decades of progress to the Creek in this community, for absolutely minimal gains to the community, and instead, only severe loss.

This will also affect the several trout streams that run into the Toby Creek.

The railroad bank is acting as a dike, harboring many unseen flooding dangers and environmental issues that would outweigh opening it up again, to the very works that caused the issues mentioned, it is only right, ethical and proper to let the young wetlands grow and not disturb what Mother Nature is repairing due to man’s mistakes.

There will be massive amounts of wetlands disturbed and ruined along with major flooding issues, environmental issues, and safety issues, to the areas that the train will travel

through. Due to the coal mining, removing timber on the north side of the old railroad grade, the railroad grade has, along with nature, controlled to some degree the 50-100 year rainfall, by holding back much of the runoff water flowing south to the Toby Creek. If disturbed, there will be dangerous flooding and environmental issues to live with and the reciprocating profit to the community is far from fair or reasonable.

Now, we must have God and His creation repair the scar that has been across this land for over a hundred years. This community has successfully been part of bringing nature back. To dig up the past will only damage and cause additional harm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Jack Wisor