

EI-18295

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Docket #: FD -35116 - -

Subject: * Draft EIS on the R.J. Corman/Pennsylvania Lines Inc. proposed rail line construction

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Group/Affiliation: Central Mountains ATV Assoc. Inc. (CMATVA)

Message: I am president of the Central Mountains ATV Assoc. Inc. We have nearly 100 members which would result in several hundred actual riders (due to family memberships). Our club schedules ATV Rides every month and many of them are started from the Gillentown Trailhead of the SSRTA (Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association). In fact we recommend to all our members, that they become members of SSRTA in order to participate in these rides. We, of course, are only a small piece of the thousands of ATV Riders that use and enjoy the SSRTA Riding Trail. This trail is currently using a lot of the old rail road bed that the RJCP is proposing to build their rail line on. Included in this is the popular Peale Tunnel and the viaduct bridge that crosses the Red Moshannon River. These are both very high attraction and important sites for this ATV Trail.

My club has been riding this trail for a number of years now. We all know that a battle has been going on for a long time between Resource Recovery and the surrounding communities over the proposed Dump Site in the area. The latest approach of course, has been reactivating the RJCP Line to get to the proposed Dump Site since the proposed use of local highways and Interstate met much resistance from many sides.

I am asking as representative of my club, that serious consideration be given to what the approval of this rail line development is going to do to existing and already developed use of this property. This existing trail is already contributing a significant impact to the local economy. One of the questions that comes to my mind is "why is the Resource Recovery already in the process of creating an Industrial Park in the area if they don't know yet whether or not they will be successful in development of the rail line and dump site".

Most of the surrounding communities have been using this land for ATVing for many years and they approve of the SSRTA use of this land. At the same time there is a lot of objection to the development of a huge dump site there. Do the wishes of the people

carry any weight or is money doing all the talking? People are very concerned about contamination of the land, water and air from a dump site, along with many other concerns. Most do not want the Dump Site or the Rail Line Re-opened.