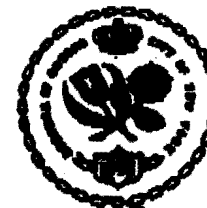




## Community Board No. 5

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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
Chairperson

Gary Giordano  
District Manager

August 10, 2010

Troy Brady, Project Manager  
Surface Transportation Board-Section of Environmental Analysis  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Decision I.D. #40969  
Finance Docket No. 35141

Although the communities we work to safeguard and improve are relatively far from the proposed Brookhaven Rail Terminal, residents in our communities have been negatively affected by freight rail traffic since New York & Atlantic Railway leased the freight rail operation of the Long Island Rail Road.

These negative affects include: diesel locomotive pollution from the old locomotives used to transport freight, construction/demolition debris and putrescible garbage/municipal solid waste; residents having to cope with extensive noise and vibrations from the coupling of rail cars in the Fresh Pond Rail Yard, where rail cars are sorted for movement; the horrible smell of rotting garbage in supposedly sealed containers, which too often sits near homes while rail cars are being sorted or while the train is preparing to be moved out of "the yard"; and open rail cars containing construction and demolition debris, and the dust from this poorly covered material polluting the air.

I do not believe that the Environmental Assessment is sufficient to determine the negative effects of additional rail traffic upon communities along the freight rail lines operated by NY&AR. Most importantly, the Fresh Pond Rail Yard is very limited in capacity. What consideration is being given to those living near the Fresh Pond Yard and along the rail route? It is easy to say that use of rail is less polluting than transport by truck, but the pollution and other negative effects are much worse, by rail, for certain communities.

Sincerely,

*Gary Giordano*  
Gary Giordano  
District Manager

CC: Hon. Joseph Addabbo (State Senator); Hon. Catherine Nolan,  
Hon. Andrew Hevesi & Hon. Michael Miller (State Assembly);  
Hon. Elizabeth Crowley, NYC Council