

Wayland, Joshua

From: Darrell Fordham <darrellfordham@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2019 1:22 AM
To: Wayland, Joshua
Subject: Uinta Basin Railway Project

Mr. Wayland,

I represent a large group of landowners in the Argyle Canyon, Avintaquin Canyon, and Emma Park areas of Utah – areas that are going to be devastated by the construction and operation of the Uinta Basin Railway Indian Canyon Preferred Route, and Wells Draw Alternate Route. We have attended 4 meetings in the past month with the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (SCIC), and their consultants HDR, Inc. and Jones and Demille Engineering. We asked many questions about these routes and have been referred to the STB as the keepers of all of the information. You and your office are shortly going to be inundated with emails, phone calls, letters, and other correspondence related to this project. As landowners we have been kept in the dark by SCIC and they continue to withhold important, critical, and pertinent information that would greatly assist us in understanding, evaluating, and assisting in the route selection process. I would like to do what I can to calm the fray that is rapidly mounting, but without some real, honest information I will not be able to do so.

1. We need to know exactly where this project is in the STB's EIS and approval processes. We cannot get a straight answer to this question.
2. We need to see detailed maps showing the proposed routes including landowner information. Notification of potentially affected landowners has been late, unreliable, inconsistent, and unprofessional at best.
3. We need detailed cost estimates and route selection criteria and documentation for each of the 3 proposed routes. Access to our properties is predicated on Utah Code Section 78b-6-506 which requires proof of the land being "required for public use" and "located in the manner which will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury". Until we receive sufficient documentation to satisfy the statute we will be denying all project related personnel access to our land for any purpose.
4. We need to know how, when, and why the proposed routes for the project changed from the previous Mack, Rifle, and Craig Colorado routes. The SCIC obtained funding from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board predicated upon the 3 Colorado routes. Then, behind closed doors, somehow in recent months the Mack and Rifle routes were replaced by the Indian Canyon and Wells Draw routes, much to our surprise, anger, frustration, disappointment, and outrage.

We are willing to work with the SCIC, STB, and any related consultants in evaluating and selecting a route that will not impact our communities, however, I can assure you that if we are ignored in this request that the Indian Canyon and/or Wells Draw routes will be accompanied by the stiffest, angriest, most politically devastating opposition a project has ever faced. We will not be "railroaded" and we will not back down. We will fight until we prevail. We would prefer to work in concert with all involved parties instead of in opposition, but that ball is squarely in your court.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Darrell Fordham
Argyle Wilderness Preservation Alliance
(801) 301-4190