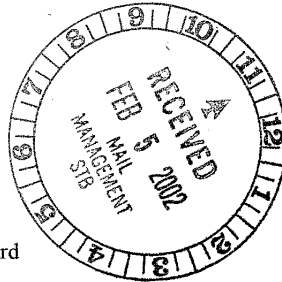


204702



95 Rose Road
Saltsburg, PA 15681
Jan. 29, 2002

Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

REF: STB Finance Docket No. 33928, Norfolk Southern Railway Co. - Construction of Saltsburg Connection, Indiana Co., PA

Dear Sir:

As an affected landowner, I am writing to voice my objection to Norfolk Southern's proposed new railroad construction in our community.

Norfolk Southern lists the following reasons as to why the new construction is needed....

1. avoid more mountainous route
2. substantial savings of time
3. reduced locomotive power
4. reduced crew
5. greater capacity
6. reduction in local truck traffic
7. environmental benefits

Items 1 thru 5 can be directly translated to one thing, A BETTER BOTTOM LINE for Norfolk Southern. Reduced truck traffic can be translated to yet another detrimental blow to our already economically floundering community. And as for environmental benefits, how can destroying virgin woodland, destroying fertile farmland, destroying wildlife habitat and introducing noise and coal dust pollution be construed as an environmental benefit to our community?

Additionally, they fail to mention the fact that they will eliminate the need to pay tonnage to the owners of the current route which also translates to a BETTER BOTTOM LINE.

I also object to the use of eminent domain giving them the power to acquire the needed property for their project. I am certain our forefathers intended eminent domain to be used in matters of Capital Improvement and not for corporate gain. I can assure you this project would never have gotten off the ground had they not threatened each landowner with eminent domain.

If in fact this project is being considered a matter of Capital Improvement, then it should be viewed as to how can the improvement be accomplished with the least amount of community disruption and the answer to that is quite obvious, upgrade the existing route to meet Norfolk Southern's increased demands.

Sincerely,

Francis L. Olliver

Enc. 10 copies

cc: Constance A. Sadler

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 07 2002

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