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BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FINANCE DOCKET NO. 34797



**NEW ENGLAND TRANSRAIL LLC d/b/a WILMINGTON & WOBURN
TERMINAL RAILWAY - PETITION FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM 49
U.S.C.10901 TI ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE AS A RAIL
CARRIER ON THE TRACKS AND LAND IN WILMINGTON AND
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMENTS FROM AN ENVIRONMENTALIST, ON WHETHER THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE
PROPOSED SOLID WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY OF SOLID WASTE
PROCESSING FACILITY OF THE NEW ENGLAND TRANSRAIL, LLC.
d/b/a WILMINGTON & WOBURN TERMINAL RAILWAY**

Susan Cleaver
109 Coleman Road
Goshen
NY 10924
(845)294-7846

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I am of the opinion / believe NET proposal's EA is inadequate . . a Full EIS should be required.

It seems only logical that NET's proposed MSW and C&D activities would be a Solid Waste Management Facility under both the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection *see BWP SW 05,08,15,19,26,27,28,29 permit fact sheet*310 CMR 19.020 19.030 19032 as well as and DEC *see 6NYCRR Part 360 1.2 b (39) (120) The definition of both applicable regulations seem to match NET's proposal as such, as well as it may appear to require a state permit. EPA regulation also appears to indicate this would be a solid waste facility *see 40 CFR part 239

It is my understanding that the RCRA Regulations, which include a permitting process, is for a waste management program that was envisioned by Congress. Wasn't there a Congressional mandate to develop a set of set regulations to implement the law?

3) It seems that the NET proposal may impact public health and welfare*see below. How is the STB going to mitigate

these issues not only with this application but other Solid Waste Facility's issues?

TITLE 42 THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE Chapter 82 Solid Waste Disposal

42USC sec. 6901. . Congressional Findings (a)3.

.. that the continuing concentration of our population in expanding metropolitan and other urban areas has presented these communities with serious financial, management, intergovernmental, and technical problems in the disposal of solid waste resulting from industrial, commercial, domestic and other activities carried on in such areas. . .

Section 6901 (b)

1. Although land is too valuable a national resource to be needlessly polluted by discarded material, most solid waste is disposed of on land in open dumps and sanitary landfills:

2. disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste is in or on the land without careful planning and management can present a danger to human health and the environment

6. If hazardous waste management is improperly performed in the first instance, corrective action is likely to be expensive, complex and time consuming.

General Laws of Massachusetts Chapter 21H - Solid Waste Facilities

M. G. L. Chap. 21H section 1-Legislative determination and declaration of purpose

(1) There is a critical need to eliminate, mitigate and prevent the nuisances and adverse public health effects associated with the collection, processing and disposal of solid waste from whatever source derived, including municipal, industrial, domestic, commercial and other sources or activities.

(3) The provision of such capacity is an essential public purpose, will constitute the performance of an essential public function and is necessary to the prevention and improvement of health, welfare and living conditions of the people of the commonwealth, the promotion of industry and employment and all aspects of commerce, the maintenance, protection, conservation and development of a safe water supplies, and the protection of the environment overall.

4.) The testimony of W. Douglas Buttrey, Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Hearing on Impacts of Railroad-Owned Waste Facilities 10 a.m. on May 23, 2006. . . he appears to indicate. . . an entity is not entitled to federal preemption to the extent it is engaged in activities other than rail transportation. .

. *below is cut pasted from STB web page

Both the Board and the courts have made clear, however, that, although the scope of the section 10501(b) preemption is broad, there are limits. While a literal reading of section 10501(b) would suggest that it preempts all other law, neither the Board nor the courts have interpreted the statute in that manner. Rather, where there are overlapping federal statutes, they are to be harmonized, with each statute given effect to the extent possible. This is true even for federal statutory schemes that are implemented in part by the states, such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Given the strength and breadth of the section 10501(b) preemption, the potential for misuse is a definite concern. Thus, both the Board and the courts have made clear that an entity is not entitled to federal preemption to the extent it is engaged in activities other than rail transportation. In some cases, solid waste and other businesses have located close to a railroad and claimed to be a rail facility exempted from state and local laws that would otherwise apply, but have been found by the Board or a court not to be entitled to the federal preemption because the operation did not actually constitute ?rail transportation? by a ?rail carrier.? In other cases, activities and operations at facilities have been found to qualify for the federal preemption, as part of the transportation conducted by a rail carrier.

5.) How are residents - the environment going to be protected? Have cumulative impacts in this area. . such as air quality, water quality. . been reviewed and addressed?

6.) I am very concerned about the STB ability to bond, enforcement, inspection,

tracking and monitoring as well as oversight, vector control, safety & health issues, air quality, water quality . . . the solid waste business. . especially when it involves any type processing. If there is a violation and no permit. . what enforcement will be in place?

7.)I feel grateful that Congress/States have recognized the problems that can / appear may have resulted from the Solid Waste industry. I find it very troubling that it appears our protection may be at risk through this possible approval of preemption from most state and local regulations under 49 U.S.C.10501(b). I question if it is/was Congress's intent of preemption clause. . . to have the protective roles/ laws that were so carefully and specifically carved out for our health - welfare regarding the solid waste industry to be displaced.

8.)I think this industry appears to have the ability to severely effect our environment, health and welfare . . We can not afford to loose any of our checks and balances. I would like to know how the STB intends on protecting us, our health , our welfare, our environment with this preemption if it is approved?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Susan Cleaver 845-294-7846

109 Coleman rd.

Goshen

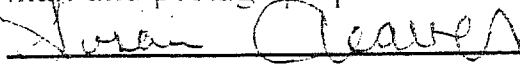
NY 10924

#1 No preemption where the operation does not constitute transportation by a rail carrier i. High Tech Trans, LLV v. New Jersey, 382 F.3d 295 (3d Cir. 2004); High Tech Trans, LLC- Pet. For Decl. Order-Hudson County NJ, STB Finance Docket No. 34192 (STB served Nov. 20, 2002) (both agreeing with New Jersey Dept. of Environ. Protection that there is no preemption for truck transportation of construction and demolition waste en route to transloading facility, even though a railroad ultimately uses rail cars to transport the debris)

ii. Grafton and Upton R.R. v. Town of Milford, Civ. No. 03-40291 (D. Mass. Feb. 14, 2006); Town of Milford, MA- Pet. For Decl. Order, STB Finance Docket No. 34444 (STB served Aug. 12, 2004) (no preemption for planned steel fabrication facilities that are not part of "transportation")

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served the foregoing comments/questions of an environmentalist, with family members residing in Massachusetts, concerning whether the surface transportation board has jurisdiction over the proposed solid waste processing facility of New England Transrail LLC d/b/a Wilmington & Woburn Terminal Railway by causing a copy thereof to be delivered via first class mail and postage prepaid to *see following list:


Susan Cleaver

Daniel R. Deutsch
Paul R. Derensis
Deutsch Williams Brooks Derensis & Holland, P.C.
99 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110-1235

Patrick John Cane
Mercer County Improvement Authority
640 S Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08650

Honorable James R. Miceli
11 Webber Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Arthur G. Marsilia
United Tool & Die Co., Inc.
Eames Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Robert A Rio
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
P. O. Box 763
Boston, MA 02117-0763

Thomas E. Dew
Berry Moorman
900 Victors Way, Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2705

Tim Conway
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Arthur Williams
National Black Agenda Convention, Inc.
P.O. Box 366211
Boston, MA 02136-9998

P. Christopher Podgurski
Podgurski Corp.
8 Springfield Avenue
Canton, MA 02021

J. Patrick Berry
Jeffrey M. Bauer
Baker Botts LLP
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Honorable James R. Miceli
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Room 167, State House
Boston, MA 02133-1054

Stephen M. Richmond
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
45 William Street, Suite 120
Wellesley, MA 02481

M. Barbara Sullivan
27 Gunderson Road
Wilmington, MA 01887-1546

Deborah L. Duggan
11 Hillcrest Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

John W. Carrington
Hiram Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., Inc.
98 Talbot Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02124

Nyjah Wyche
Health Education and Learning Program for Black
Males Health
University of Massachusetts
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Frank S. Demasi
26 MacArthur Road
Wellesley, MA 02482

Bill Owens
115 Hazelton Street
Mattapan, MA 02121

Comments of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
STB Finance Docket No. 34797

Edward D. Greenberg
Galland, Kharasch, Greenberg, Fellman & Swirsky, P.C.
Canal Square, 1054 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007-4492

Honorable Dianne Wilkerson
Massachusetts State Senate
State House
Boston, MA 02133-1053

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator
2400 John F. Kennedy Federal Office Bldg.
Boston, MA 02203

Honorable John F. Tierney
U.S. House of Representatives
17 Peabody Square
Peabody, MA 01960

Bill Phillips
Morristown & Erie Railway Inc.
P. O. Box 2206
Morristown, NJ 07962-2206

Woburn City Council
City Clerk
10 Common Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Wilmington-Woburn Collaborative
c/o Kathleen M. Barry
14 Powder House Circle
Wilmington, MA 01887

Paul J. Meaney
Woburn Business Association
P. O. Box 3057
Woburn, MA 01888

Ann L. Yurek
448 Shawsheen Avenue
Wilmington, MA 01887

Stephen R. Sasala, II
Waterbury Regional Chamber
P.O. Box 1469
Waterbury, CT 06721

William Clyburn, Jr.
Clyburn Consulting, LLC
7819 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012

Fred R. Moore
6 Ella Street
Saugus, MA 01906

Linda Raymond
Woodburn Neighborhood Association, Inc.
10 North Maple Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
Suite 101, Five High Street
Medford, MA 02155

Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Woburn Neighborhood Association, Inc.
10 North Maple Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Thomas McLaughlin
10 Common Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Honorable Robert A. Havern
Massachusetts Senate
4th Middlesex District, Room 109D
State House
Boston, MA 02133-1053

John V. Edwards, Esq.
Zuckert Scoutt et al
888 17th Street NW Ste 600
Washington, DC 20006-3939

Thomas E. Farrell
1777 Market Tower
10 West Market Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Marlinda Duncanson
City of Middletown
16 James Street
Middletown, NJ 10940

Susan Cleaver
109 Coleman Road
Goshen, NY 10924

Comments of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Peter J. Shudiz
CSX Corporation
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 560
Washington, DC 20004

Peter J. Shudiz
CSX Corporation
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Steven Armbrust
CSX Transportation Inc.
500 Water Street, Suite 1150

Dean Ehler
Solid Waste Program Coordinator
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Mark R. Reich
Kopelman and Paige, P.C.
101 Arch Street
Boston, MA 02110-1109

Louis P. Warchot
Association of American Railroad
50 F Street, NW, Suite 12041