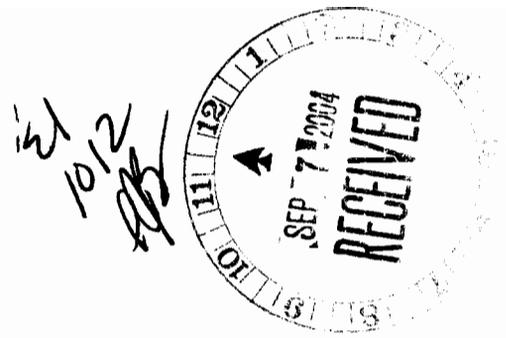


Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball  
Case Control Unit  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423



Re: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS, FINANCE DOCKET  
No. 34391

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

August 31, 2004

In the 32 years I have lived in Wilmington, I have never known such opposition to a single project from every level. We are outraged that despite several meetings you continue to steam roll this project.

We could discuss the lofty principle of Environmental Justice, that people in the area have already been subjected to too much.

We could discuss your use of the outdated past history of the site where four years ago – long before the extent of the contamination had been documented - our Board of Appeals authorized a bottling company. Armed with current data, I am absolutely certain this bottling company would not have been allowed. Certainly the recent transfer of the Olin property to the EPA's National Priority List lends credence to the tremendous challenge that faces us. Surely the Los Vegas study of contaminants in the effluent needs more scrutiny.

The Olin property is at a water divide which sends water south to Woburn during times of high water and north to Wilmington during average water levels. Both Towns are affected by this site.

We could discuss the loss of 5 wells because of the Olin property contamination and the loss of three million dollars each year in revenue from the sale of water. We now have to buy water which is reimbursed by Olin at cost only -- no thought is given to maintenance costs.

We could discuss the ongoing State Board of Health study of elevated cancer rates in children and probably adults. These results should be ready this fall.

The Olin property lies on top of a major aquifer – underground rivers flow carrying ‘Chemicals of Concern’ with them. No amount of tarmack or roofing can diminish the underground flow significantly. This site needs to be cleaned up – it is expensive but it can be done – it is not impossible. Perhaps the fact that several companies are responsible may increase the available financial resources. No project which carries the potential of increasing the contamination and disruption should be allowed.

I believe that the current property should be used to remove the contaminants from the area. In fact Lake Poly is being excavated and carted away. Perhaps the clean up could occur there. Certainly it should not be sold. I feel it is irresponsible of Olin to take this course of action.

When a governmental agency such as yours feels that they know better than the citizens of the Town, it is a sorry state of affairs and needs to be fought at every level including whether the STB should be abolished. Unfortunately the cost to the Town to do so adds another dimension in tight fiscal times. I suspect it will be resolved in court.

Sincerely,

Betty M. Bigwood, MD  
300 Chestnut St  
Wilmington, Ma 01887

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BMB', followed by a period.