



Woburn Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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August 21, 2004

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



Re: Environmental Assessment Finance Docket No. 34391

New England Transrail, LLC, d/b/a Wilmington and Woburn Terminal Railroad Co. – Construction, Acquisition, and Operation Exemption – in Wilmington and Woburn, MA

We the Woburn Neighborhood Association, Inc. would like to state the following environmental comments in response to Docket No. 34391. It is evident from reading this report that both New England Transrail, LLC and the Surface Transportation Board has not taken seriously into consideration the human environment of the surrounding neighborhoods of the Olin Site, 51 Eames Street, Wilmington, MA.

The quality of life of the residents surrounding this site will be altered forever. This is not improvement! This is another environmental disaster to both communities!

Contamination knows no boundary and whether it is historic, present or the future, New England Transrail, LLC will be adding insult to injury! And by the approval of the Surface Transportation Board they are to blame as well.

1) Diesel Exhaust

It is a basic fact that diesel exhaust is offensive to smell, and from health documentation can cause such health problems as, irritation of the eyes, and irritation of the respiratory tract. Diesel exhaust is also listed as a human carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This alone will contribute to contamination of the air we breath not taking into account the great possibility of spills into the air, ground and water. I along with many residents live within a ¼ mile of the Olin Site.

- 2) **Commodities**
New England Transrail, LLC changes the description of commodities in every report that has been published to date. **Page ES-4 ES.3.1.3. A variety of commodities, including...** This opens the door to whatever New England Transrail, LLC chooses to handle. The key to the kingdom so to speak. New England Transrail, LLC has now added Propane. What next ?
- 3) **Page ES-15 Community Relations** New England Transrail, LLC states that they will establish a Community Liaison with local agencies and officials. Here again is proof that New England Transrail, LLC is leaving out the surrounding residents. *It is the residents that live and breath, drink the water, and hear the noise that New England Transrail, LLC will be polluting.* And it is the residents to whom this **environmental injustice** is affecting.
- 4) **Page 3-17 Environmental Justice**
In your description quoting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) you left out an important description on Environmental Justice as stated by the USEPA on their website: **Fair Treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or a socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.**

New England Transrail, LLC as well as the Surface Transportation Board both need to re-examine issues related to its actions.

- 5) **Page 4-16 4.8.2 Impact of Implementation of the Proposed Action on Human health and The Environment** “Conclusions regarding the risks to human health and the environment, based on Olin’s previous characterization and assessment of the conditions at the proposed project site” It is very troublesome to read that based on the Olin Corporation (New England Transrail, LLC is *intending to purchase from*) New England Transrail, LLC is allowed to rely on the sellers Risk Assessment? Ever hear of the saying those who test, control the results? No faith, No trust. An independent party is needed here before any further decisions are to be made.
- 6) **East Ditch**
One of our primary concerns that are not mentioned in the report is the East Ditch of the Olin Site. The proposed New England Transrail, LLC railroad track expansion to accommodate the development will have a significant impact on the toxic chemicals that are present in the East Ditch. What impact will this have on the residents of Woburn? As stated by the DEP in their Phase II Report there are chemicals of concern that are entering Halls Brook that flows into the Aberjona River. New England Transrail, LLC will possibly add contamination to this site. What impact will this have on the communities that border the Aberjona River?

7) **Regulation**

The Surface Transportation Board is known for regulation of moving material and not what is moved by New England Transrail, LLC. If this is in fact true, then who is responsible for the regulation for what New England Transrail, LLC intends to move into our neighborhoods that has a great possibility to contaminate the soils, water and air that we breathe. These are precious commodities that cannot be substituted nor replaced. The quality of life is in jeopardy here for many.

The Woburn Neighborhood Association, Inc. who is represented by over 350 residents is stating for the record that we are opposed to New England Transrail, LLC operation at the Olin Site on 51 Eames Street, Wilmington, MA.

For the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the communities of Woburn as well as Wilmington, take into affect the human environment! It is we who live here you don't!

Sincerely,



Linda A. Raymond
Co-Chairman

Woburn Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Cc:

Woburn Mayor John Curran
State Representative, Carol Donovan
State Representative, James Miceli
State Representative, Jay Kaufman
Woburn Board of Health Director, Jack Fralick
Alderman, John Ciriello
Woburn City Council Chairman, Paul Medeiros
Chairman Wilmington Town Council
Senator John Tierney
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary EOE
Kathleen Barry, President Concerned Citizens Network
Members Wilmington-Woburn Collaborative
Members Woburn Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Members Aberjona Study Coalition, Inc.
Members Concerned Citizens Network
Members T.O.X.I.C.
Members Mystic River Watershed Association
Members Woburn Residents Environmental Network