



EI-7278

## Clearfield County Planning Commission

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May 15, 2008

Ms. Sandy Basehore  
Skelly & Loy, Inc.  
2601 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

**RE: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Co., Beech Creek Branch Line-  
Construction and Operation – between Wallaceton and Gorton, Pennsylvania  
Preliminary Consultation**

Dear Ms. Basehore:

Thank you for the opportunity in which to provide comments on the potential impacts, related to the reactivation of the former Beech Creek Rail Line, to resources within Clearfield County.

Our initial investigation did not unveil the presence of any known sensitive environmental resources along the corridor within the boundary of Clearfield County. There is one crossing of an exceptional value stream, Black Bear Run, located in neighboring Centre County, which most likely will be further addressed by the Centre County Planning Office.

The impacts that we envision occurring along the section traversing Clearfield County would be more related to health, safety and noise since the line passes through a number of residential areas including the towns of Wallaceton, Morrisdale, Allport, Munson and Winburne. Multiple crossings with state and local roadways exist requiring consideration be given for safety at those intersections. Since it is anticipated that the reactivated line will be used to haul municipal waste there would also be concern regarding possible leakage from the waste affecting the health of those residents who live in close proximity of the line; in particular those who rely upon individual on lot water sources for their sole source of drinking water. Noise, too, will be a factor since the line passes through the front and back yards of a multitude of residential homes. We ask that these issues be addressed as part of the final environmental assessment or impact statement.

Lastly, we would like to highlight a potential impact depending on whether or not this line would generate the development of a transfer station within Clearfield County. A transfer station in which municipal waste would be trucked in and loaded onto rail cars bound for the proposed landfill facility. Without being provided information as to where the waste will be loaded onto the rail cars we are unable to confirm or deny such a possibility, therefore we ask for further clarification. If such a development is possible, the resulting environmental impact could be significant due to the increased truck traffic and we would want the opportunity to provide detailed comments.

Sincerely,

  
Jodi Brennan, Director  
Clearfield County Planning Office

Cc: Clearfield County Commissioners