

Laurie Kennison  
26 Miller Road  
Wilmington, MA

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

May 8, 2006

RE: Finance Docket No. 34391  
Environmental Assessment, New England Transrail, LLC, d/b/a Wilmington and Woburn  
Terminal Railroad Co. – Construction, Acquisition, and Operation Exemption – in  
Wilmington and Woburn, MA

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am concerned about the potential impacts that could occur if the Olin facility is converted to yet another polluting use. Aside from the gross contamination that has already occurred, I am worried about the future pollution that this site will contribute to Wilmington, particularly in regards to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution that will result from the increased trucks that will be traveling to and from the facility. I am worried that the increased traffic will produce:

- Increased MTCO<sub>2</sub> emissions from trucks traveling to and from the facility as well as idling at the facility, which contributes to the greenhouse effect and global warming.
- Increased soot, including NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and PM, particularly PM 2.5 and below which will make their way to residents and employees' lungs and could potentially cause asthma and bronchitis. In addition, many government agencies consider soot to be a probable or known carcinogen.
- Increased wear and tear on the roads (potholes, loss of thermoplastic and painted street markings, etc.), particularly Eames Street, Woburn Street, Main Street, and Lowell Street, which the town will have to repair.
- Traffic and accidents at intersections, particularly Eames Street at Main Street. There is no traffic signal and large trucks often have difficulty making left and right turns due to the logistics of the intersection. These large trucks and trailers create a hazard because they cannot pullout quickly like other vehicles do, which creates backups when a large truck is waiting to pullout.

- Noise, dust, and vibrations for local industries and neighbors.

I am alarmed because as a resident of Wilmington and a student in environmental science, I know that the environmental impacts are hard to predict and secondary impacts are hard to foresee. This project has the potential to increase the risk of asthma, bronchitis, cancer, motor vehicle accidents, and global warming not just for immediate neighbors of Eames Street, but also for the entire region because the effects will not be contained to the facility. The dust, soot, and MTCO<sub>2</sub> emissions have the potential to be blown all over Wilmington and surrounding towns where they can be inhaled by unsuspecting residents. Residents in Wilmington, Woburn, and other communities in Middlesex County are already experiencing a large (and disproportionate) quantity of sites that are contaminated so badly they have been listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Middlesex County has the largest volume of sites on the NPL in Massachusetts. In fact you can play connect the dots with NPL listings in the region starting with IndustriPlex and Wells G&H in Woburn, then drive north into Wilmington towards the Olin facility (51 Eames Street) and then continue heading north to the Tewksbury/Wilmington border to visit the Sutton Brook Disposal Area. Next head northwest to go to Iron Horse Park in Billerica and then head into Lowell to the Silresim site. The last stop on the toxic tour is the Charles-George Reclamation Landfill in Tyngsboro. It is no wonder that this area is often mentioned as a possible cancer corridor. We do not want another site that will further degrade the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the communities that we live in. Please consider relocating the station to an alternative location that will have fewer impacts.

Sincerely,

Laurie Kennison

Candidate for M.A. in Environmental Science and Policy and lifelong Wilmington resident