

Saratoga-Carbon County Impact Joint Powers Board

PO Box 486

Saratoga, WY 82331

September 10, 2004

212011



Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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SEP 16 2004

Karl Morell, Of Counsel
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1455 F Street, NW, Suite 225
Washington, DC 20005

Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-307 (Sub-No. 5X)

The Saratoga-Carbon County Impact Joint Powers Board, among other duties, is charged by the Town of Saratoga and County of Carbon, Wyoming, with the duty to enhance economic development efforts for the Town of Saratoga.

In early 2003, Louisiana Pacific Corp. closed their lumber milling operation in Saratoga. This resulted in the loss of 130 direct employees and many contract employees securing logs for the mill. Louisiana Pacific was the last large private employer in our community and the loss of the mill was a major blow to our economy.

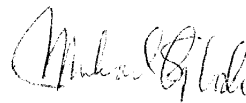
The LP mill and certain timber contracts have since been sold to Intermountain Resources, LLC, but the mill has not been re-opened. Intermountain Resources has protested the abandonment of the railroad between Saratoga and the Union Pacific mainline at Walcott on the basis that the lumber mill operation cannot operate profitably without access to local rail service.

The Joint Powers Board wishes to also enter a protest of this abandonment. It is our understanding from conversations with Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester, and Don Adams, General Manager for Louisiana Pacific from 1999 until the mill closure last year, the rail line is indeed essential for the operation of the mill. Should abandonment be permitted and executed, there will be no hope for the forest products industry in our area.

In conversation with Scott Armentrout, District Ranger for the US Forest Service in Saratoga, the Forest Service intends to offer for sale approximately 100 million board feet of timber in the next few years in our area. Without the local mill, there would be no purchaser of this timber, thus thwarting the Forest Service's healthy forest management plan.

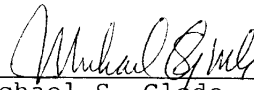
For these reasons, the Saratoga-Carbon County Impact Joint Powers Board hereby requests denial of the petition for abandonment of the above mentioned rail line by the Wyoming and Colorado Railroad Company, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Glode, Chairman

On this 10th day of September, 2004, I swear that the preceding document is a true copy.



Michael S. Glode

State of Wyoming
County of Carbon

The foregoing instrument was
acknowledged before me by
Michael Glode this 10th day of
Sept., 2004.

Witness my hand and official
seal.

