



FW: waste railroad ties

Bob Medina

to:

'nadalsc@stb.dot.gov'

08/28/2015 10:15 AM

Hide Details

From: Bob Medina <bmedina@kdheks.gov>

To: "'nadalsc@stb.dot.gov'" <nadalsc@stb.dot.gov>

History: This message has been replied to.

2 Attachments



LetterSurfaceTransportationBoad(8-28-15).docx workplan(forRailroads).docx

Good Morning Catherine,

I am sending you a cover letter explaining the Bureau of Waste Management involvement from the abandonment of railroad tracks and our need to be in the process. Again I thank you for your help and the Bureau of Waste Management looks forward working with your agency. I have included a letter and a work plan for you to look over and give to any railroads who plan on any abandonments in the state of Kansas. Thanks.bm.



August 28, 2015

Catherine Nadals
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Waste Railroad Ties

Dear Catherine:

The Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) has received several complaints of railroad ties disposed on public and private properties for many years. The problem with the historic improper disposal of so many railroad ties has become a financial burden for many private landowners and local governments within our state.

The BWM is now faced with the problem of Illegal Dumping of the railroad ties. Company's large and small who buy, repair or abandon railroad tracks have left hundreds to thousands of railroad ties for someone else to deal with. Some of these companies are no longer in business and the financial burden of properly disposing of these railroad ties is left to local and state government.

Our research of such sites on private land reveals the landowners were approached by contractors looking for low cost disposal methods. The railroad ties at the time of repair or abandonment should have been properly disposed at a permitted facility. Instead, the landowners were told they could make money selling these railroad ties for landscaping, fencing and various other uses. These sites are still there because the landowners have found no customers for these old railroad ties. During some of our inspections of abandoned or repair railroad lines, we have notice the contractor left railroad ties along the right of way.

The BWM understands before any railroad lines are abandoned an application must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board along with the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA). An environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared by the SEA 60 days prior to any abandonment.

The Bureau of Waste Management has been informed of STB Docket No. AB 1032X is applying for abandonment in Norton County, Kansas. The Bureau of Waste Management would like to be involved in this process. Please send them information asking to provide our Bureau the necessary information. I am providing an example of a work plan which should be used by the railroad informing the BWM of their process in the abandonment. The Bureau of Waste Management would like for the Surface Transportation Board to also include this in your process as this does occur in many parts of the United States.

Catherine Nadals
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The Bureau of Waste Management is asking your agency to include us during this process. We believe by including our bureau in this process, the chances of new problem sites developing will be minimized or eliminated. The Bureau of Waste Management appreciates the opportunity to work with your agency.

Sincerely,

Bob R. Medina
Environmental Scientist
Bureau of Waste Management
Waste Reduction & Public Education/Grants

C: Bill Bider
Ken Powell
Darian Dernovish, Legal

WORK PLAN

Date _____

To: Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
Bureau of Waste Management

Subject: Corrective Action Waste Tie Clean Up Site #_____

_____ (Railroad) will be working to clean up an abandonment of railroad track located in the _____ (legal description). The property is owned by _____.

Description of Work:

The site is approximately _____ miles long. The waste consisted of waste railroad ties, recycled metal and steel tracks. The estimated tonnage is _____. The _____ (railroad company) will be performing the clean up although depending on scheduling a private contractor may be hired. The waste ties will be taken to _____ for disposal. We will be starting the abandonment _____.

(Note) Receipts will be provided to the Bureau of Waste Management upon the completion of the abandonment of where all waste ties have been disposed. Please provide BWM names of all contacts with your railroad and any contractors whom the BWM can discuss disposal process at any time during the abandonment.

Equipment:

Dump trucks
Loaders
Trucks
Roll Offs

Labor:

Disposal costs:

Estimated tonnage
Permitted facility's name

We will be starting the abandonment on _____.
We anticipate completing the work by _____.

Contact Person for Bureau of Waste Management

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