

MITCHELL STONE PRODUCTS, LLC.

15 MITCHELL LANE
TUPPER LAKE, N.Y. 12986

Office: 518-359-7029

Cell: 518-572-1988

246370

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings
September 14, 2018
Part of
Public Record

August 22, 2018

Hon. Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW.
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Docket AB-1261

Dear Chairman Begeman:

My name is Paul J. Mitchell. I am the owner of Mitchell Stone Products in Tupper Lake NY. Mitchell Stone Products recently purchased the Tahawus Mine property, in Essex County NY, from National Lead Industries (NLI). We are actively processing and marketing aggregate materials from the site and believe access to the interstate rail network offers our business a potential option for expanding market reach and for delivering valuable environmental benefits in the Adirondack community.

NLI originally mined the site for titanium to be used in the WWII war effort and for industrial uses. As a by-product of their mining operation, more than 80 million tons of tailings were stockpiled on the property. Those stockpiled materials are 100% virgin stone, will be 100% recycled, and are well suited for use in the asphalt and concrete business. The quality specifications of Tahawus products meet NYS DOT standards for road paving projects and are viewed favorably by construction companies as distant as New York City and Long Island.

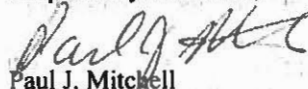
Our mining permit application with NYS DEC, granted May 10 2018, anticipated the primary mode of transportation from the Tahawus Mine would be truck. Mitchell Stone Products is experienced with trucking and we own a fleet of trucks. However, we are learning more about the potential benefits of rail transportation and believe access to the interstate rail network could expand and accelerate our business.

With a viable rail transportation option, the market reach for Tahawus products could be expanded well beyond the local truck-served Adirondack area. In addition to direct benefits to Mitchell Stone Products, this could help us increase our local workforce and deliver valuable environmental benefits. For example, if one-half of the known reserves (i.e. 40 million tons) were delivered to market by rail instead of truck, 2.8 million truck trips would be avoided in the Adirondacks and there would 800,000 fewer tons of CO2 emitted, the equivalent of 160,000 acres of pine forest extracting CO2 for a year.

In consideration of the strong potential interest by Mitchell Stone Products in using the interstate rail network to deliver valuable benefits to the community and the environment, I urge you to deny the adverse abandonment application in STB Docket No. AB-1261.

CC: All Parties of Record

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Mitchell
Owner and President
Mitchell Stone Products