

KLINE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Secretary: Gary Perna Jr., A.S.

Date: April 11, 2022

Chairman Martin J. Oberman,
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Office of Proceedings
April 12, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Subject: REQUEST AB 167 1195 X

Sir,

As Chairman of the Kline Township Board of Supervisors, I write this letter to provide details relevant to the subject request currently under review by your board, AB 167 1195 X. These details explain if abandonment is approved by your board, it will have a direct, positive impact to Kline Township for planned new water and sewer lines in that section of old Conrail railway.

The subject request was submitted by Consolidated Rail Corporation (owner) to dispose of a section of their railroad, which then can be turned over to a developer to make improvements and then turned over to Kline Township for community use. That section of former track is located entirely within Kline Township, Schuylkill County, PA. and will have a significant, positive impact on our community as it will provide a utility corridor for a potable water main and for sanitary sewer force main if the request is approved. Currently, the township has an aged, low-pressure water main line with many breaks on that line; in addition, it is covered by full growth trees creating many negative impacts on keeping safe water flowing to residents and businesses in that area.

The new potable water main will also serve as a source of water for fire protection for the Villages of Haddock and Lofty, and potable water will replace shallow wells for the Village of Lofty. The sanitary sewer force main will serve the

Village of Haddock where the on-lot septic fields for a number of homes are failing. Time is important for our community to get the new water line and new sewer line construction started. Drafted plans are ready to be submitted to PA DEP for permitting, if the STB completes their review with an approval.

As you may know the rail segment has not been used since the mid-nineteen seventies, there are no rails nor ties in place, the segment is blocked on both ends (by an arterial state route placed on approximately 18' of fill over the segment on one end and several non-arterial routes that have been paved over on grade on the other end), re-establishment for rail use would require relocation of ground surveyed delineated wetland, a stream crossing and we literally know of no anticipated users.

It may be likely that this abandonment request is just one of many requests at the Surface Transportation Board with your heavy workload. However, as local elected public officials holding monthly public meetings to ensure safe drinking water and fire protection, as well as safe sewer, we are all eyes watching and awaiting your disposition. We really cannot go forward without it, even though Conrail is the owner and requester. We have been actively monitoring the activity of AB 167 1195 X on your STB website since 10/18/2021 and read the 12 Combined Filings/Decisions, 5 Decisions, 7 Filings, 5 Environmental Comments. If we can provide any additional details from our public officials or residents here awaiting your decision, please contact us at (570) 497-5773.

We sincerely thank you for your time in reading this and look forward to a timely decision.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale A. Wesner

Dale A. Wesner, Captain, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Chairman

Kline Township Board of Supervisors

We have served all known parties of record.

