

Post Star

August 28, 2015

Editor:

Thank you to the Warren County Board of Supervisors for not rubber-stamping Saratoga-North Creek Railroad's proposal to store hundreds of used oil cars on the Tahawus/Lake Sanford spur between the towns of Newcomb and Minerva (*Post-Star*, Aug. 21).

Moreover, thanks also for the county's hard questions.

While environmental organizations like ours are strongly opposed to the proposal as we understand it, and believe state and federal governments may have ample jurisdiction, local governments are on the front lines. Warren County is the first to hear and to respond to what SNCRR has to say and to be concerned with potential impacts on public health, safety and the environment. The questions supervisors are posing are exactly the right ones in terms of concern for local and area residents in both Warren and Essex counties: what is being stored, how much, for how long and how frequently, and where and by whom will inspections of the cars and contents be conducted?

While we and others continue to push Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state and federal agencies to subject this proposal to careful environmental scrutiny, Warren County has clear jurisdiction and is proving to be the appropriately skeptical, responsible public body searching for answers to these and other critical questions.

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