



For Immediate Release

January 4, 2018

Contact:

Chris Amato, Earthjustice, 212-845-7390

David Gibson, Adirondack Wild, 518-469-4081

Dan Plumley, Adirondack Wild, 518-524-7771

Wilderness Advocates Urge APA to Take Action on Rail Car Storage

Two environmental groups, Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve and the nonprofit law firm Earthjustice, are urging the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to immediately assert its authority to end the unlawful storage of discarded oil tanker cars in protected wild and scenic river areas in the heart of the Adirondack Park.

In a letter to the APA, [Letter to APA](#), the groups assert that the APA has the legal authority to order the two companies involved in the rail car storage to immediately cease and desist from further storage of rail cars because the activity violates the New York Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act (Rivers Act). The letter notes that the storage of discarded oil tanker cars is currently occurring within the designated “Wild” river area of the Opalescent River and within the designated “Scenic” river area of the Boreas River. The Rivers Act prohibits the storage of discarded oil tanker rail cars in Wild and Scenic river areas.

The groups call on the APA to utilize its broad enforcement authority under the Rivers Act and the Adirondack Park Agency Act, which includes the authority to

issue a cease and desist order, issue a notice of apparent violation, and refer violations to the Attorney General's office for enforcement.

David Gibson, Managing Partner of Adirondack Wild, said: "We commend Governor Cuomo for his great concern over this railroad junkyard in the heart of the Adirondack Park and for his recent action asking the federal government to intervene on this issue. However, in the spirit with which the Governor committed 'to do everything we can' to stop the action, and knowing how long appeals to federal agencies may take, we urge the APA to immediately assert its legal authority to uphold the Rivers Act and end the illegal storage of these oil tanker cars."

Chris Amato, attorney in Earthjustice's Northeast office, said: "The time for the APA to act is now. The railroad companies have informed Governor Cuomo that they intend to add hundreds of additional oil tanker rail cars to their High Peaks junkyard. The blatant disregard by these companies of state environmental laws demands a firm and prompt response from the agency that is supposed to protect the Adirondack Park."