

CSX Railroad has approached White Rock landowners seeking to build a rail siding approximately 7,000 feet in length beside its present track. (The same plan rejected by Irmo this past spring!) The siding will begin near Mt. Vernon Church Road, opposite Lowman Home, and cross Three Dog, Walter McCartha and Lynn McCartha Roads, just east of Old Hilton/Wessinger Roads. CSX says this siding is needed to increase train traffic flow between Columbia and Newberry for both CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads.

Landowners who have contacted us do not wish to sell their land for this purpose. They and their neighbors believe this is a very bad idea. However, CSX may seek to condemn the property.

Where Can We Go When An Accident Occurs?

CSX is required by the Federal Government to carry hazardous materials. In event of an accident, if an evacuation were needed, crossings and roads between Ballentine and Chapin would likely be affected. The three most direct evacuation routes for those in the immediate area (Old Hilton, Three-Dog, Mt. Vernon Church) would likely be completely blocked, leaving area homeowners, Lake Murray Elementary School and the Lowman Home's nursing and retirement communities with no place to go.

- **Lowman Home** would have to try to call in busses and vans to evacuate those who cannot help themselves, their meds and special needs. This would likely take some time, especially if residents of the area were trying to leave the area. "Sheltering-in-place" is not an option as many of the Home's buildings are old and could not be effectively sealed off. More than 300 residents are at risk here.
- **Lake Murray Elementary** would have to reach school bus drivers who would bring busses from Chapin, a process that would likely take hours while parents tried to get into the area to pick up students. More than 800 kindergarten through 5th graders, their teachers and school staff would be at risk here.
- **Area residents and businesses** would also be on their own with major routes out of the area surrounding Lake Murray blocked.

Who Will Take Responsibility For All These Lives? CSX? Our Elected Officials?

What Happens To Our Soil and Water When An Accident Occurs?

Hwy 76 in this area straddles the divide between the Broad River and Saluda River drainages.

- Chemicals entering the soil through an accident would either drain toward the Broad River or Lake Murray, potentially affecting 40% of Columbia's water supply and thousands of private wells.
- Fumes from idling and revving diesel engines, as trains sit or maneuver on and off the siding, will pump tons of acrid gases into the air daily.

Who Will Take Responsibility? CSX? Our Elected Officials?

What About Traffic And Noise?

Traffic on Hwy 76, the main route between Chapin and Ballentine for commuters and local traffic, will likely be slowed or disrupted on the hour as trains slow to enter the siding, idle on the siding, or accelerate to reenter the main line.

- Three of the roads within the area being surveyed (Old Hilton, Three-Dog and Mt. Vernon Church) are main routes to and from Lake Murray Elementary School for families living on the I-26 side of Hwy 76.
- Diesel engines idling or revving as trains enter or wait on the siding, or reenter the main line; noise from braking and the dynamite-like din of rail cars slamming into each other; diesel horns blasting as trains pass, enter crossings, or reenter the main line will drown out the peace and quiet of our community.

Who Will Take Responsibility? CSX? Our Elected Officials?

Prepared by the **DUTCH FORK COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP**--Citizens living and working in the heart of the Dutch Fork (Northwestern Richland and eastern Lexington counties) standing together to insure the safe development of our community.

RAILROAD FACTS

- The proposed siding beginning at White Rock is a little more than 1 ¼ mile long.
- The average freight train can be 1 to 1 ¼ miles long. (90 to 120 cars)
- For such a train traveling at 49 mph (the speed limit in our area) it can take almost a mile to stop *after* the engineer fully applies the emergency brake.
- The Federal Government requires CSX to carry hazardous and highly toxic materials but prevents them from revealing what or when to local citizens.
- The rail section between Ballentine and Chapin has a long record of accidents, including derailments, pedestrian deaths and auto/train collisions.

QUESTIONS DUTCH FORK COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP SEEKS ANSWERS TO:

- If the siding was not suitable for the northwest Irmo area why is it suitable for the White Rock area and its four churches, Lake Murray Elementary School, The Lowman Home and thousands of homes and businesses?
- Why did CSX and our County officials not approach the citizens of the Dutch Fork for input months ago when the decision was first made to move the siding from Irmo?
- **When an accident occurs who will take responsibility if lives are lost, including those of our senior citizens and children? Who will take responsibility for the welfare of our community? CSX? Our Elected Officials?**

HOW CAN I HELP?

- See our **CSX SEEKS RAILROAD SIDING IN WHITE ROCK** sheet for information you can share with your neighbors. Contact your local, state and federal elected officials and let them know how you feel about this issue.
- Visit www.dutchforkaction.com and www.BallentineDutchFork.com for more information and phone numbers or email addresses for your fellow citizens working on this issue. Ask how you can assist.
- **Come to the Lowman Home's Daily Life Center at 7PM, Thursday, December 20th.** We've invited CSX, our elected officials and the news media to be present with us to discuss this important issue and hear your views.