



PRESS RELEASE

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PROTECT, Local Government and Business Leaders Release New Video “Don’t Trash the Adirondack Park” about oil tanker storage on remote rail lines in the Adirondack Park

4th shipment of over 20 new oil tankers was transported into the Adirondack Park on November 15th; over 80 oil tankers are now stored on siding track on the Boreas River and south of Tahawus Mine on the Opalescent River

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Protect the Adirondacks has produced a new video opposing plans by Iowa Pacific Holdings to store indefinitely used out-of-service oil tankers in the Adirondack Park. The video “Don’t Trash the Adirondacks” features footage of the oil tankers and interviews with the Stephen McNally, Supervisor of the Town of Minerva; Wester Miga, Supervisor of the Town of Newcomb; Claudia Braymer, Warren County Supervisor from the City of Glens Falls; Robert Rafferty, Adirondac Rafting Company; and, Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks. The video runs 6 minutes in length.

Here is the video link on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/G62mAnanaKY>

Iowa Pacific is storing out-of-service oil tankers on the Sanford Lake Railway, which is a 30-mile-long dead-end track between North Creek and the Tahawus Mine in Newcomb. Iowa Pacific so far has stored over 80 oil tankers on siding track along the Boreas River in Minerva and along the Opalescent River in Newcomb. 22 open hopper out-of-service railcars have been stored for more than one year on siding track along the Hudson River outside of North Creek along Route 28. The railroad company says that it can store over 2,000 used oil tankers along the Sanford Lake Railway.

“Iowa Pacific is in the process of creating a linear junkyard that could stretch 25 to 30 miles in length through the central Adirondacks, including through vast stretches of the public Forest Preserve. These oil tankers are being stored indefinitely and could be here for years,” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks.

Protect the Adirondacks!
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To date, local government leaders in the Towns of Minerva and Newcomb in Essex County have opposed the plans of Iowa Pacific. The opposition of these towns was supported by the Essex County Board of Supervisors. The Warren County Board of Supervisors supported the Essex County resolution.

To date, the State of New York has expressed its concerns about the activities of Iowa Pacific Holdings, but neither the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) or Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have intervened to halt storage of out-of-service railcars. Protect the Adirondacks believes that both the APA and DEC have regulatory authority to review and prohibit this activity. Governor Cuomo has denounced the railroad company for storing these railcars in the Adirondack Park.

Iowa Pacific Holdings owns and operates the Saratoga & North Creek Railway, which runs a tourist train, on tracks in the Warren County and Saratoga County, which it leases from Warren County and the Town of Corinth. This section of track is approximately 40 miles and runs from Saratoga to North Creek. Under the terms of its leases no railcars can be stored on the rail lines in Warren and Saratoga counties, but the company claims it can transport out-of-service rail cars through these counties to the Sanford Lake Railway, which begins in North Creek and runs through the north end of Warren County, into Hamilton County and Essex County. Iowa Pacific is currently storing railcars on the Sanford Lake rail line in Essex County.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks, Inc. (PROTECT) is a privately funded, IRS-approved not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park in northern New York. PROTECT was formed through the merger of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks in 2009. PROTECT pursues its mission to protect the Adirondack Park and defend the public "forever wild" Forest Preserve through citizen advocacy, grassroots organizing, education, research, and legal action. PROTECT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. PROTECT maintains an office in Lake George. For more information see www.protectadks.org.

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