



Vincent Sapienza, P.E.
Commissioner

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April 16, 2018

Ernest E. Hunt
Catskill Mountain Railroad
PO Box 1415
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Dear Mr. Hunt:

Commissioner Sapienza received your April 6 letter and asked me to respond on his behalf.

Your letter outlines a request and concept to use the rail corridor to deliver construction materials to Ashokan Reservoir as part of the capital program that is scheduled to begin there sometime in the mid-2020s. This concept is not feasible for several reasons:

- 1) Part of the rail corridor that you would claim to use in the City of Kingston has already been set aside by Ulster County lawmakers for a trail.
- 2) On March 19 the commissioner of public works in Ulster County told the Catskill Mountain Railroad (CMRR) that the County would not allow it to haul freight on the line.
- 3) We understand that the Catskill Mountain Railroad is only operating its portion of the corridor under a five-year lease, with no guarantee of extensions in the future. The contracts for our large capital projects require more certainty than that.
- 4) None of our projects for the Ashokan Century Program has been designed yet, which means DEP does not have a clear picture of the types or quantity of material needed to complete the work.

In any case, Ashokan Reservoir is already surrounded by a network of highways and roads that will allow DEP to safely transport equipment and materials while also minimizing the number of times these items need to be loaded and unloaded.



As we have noted in past letters, DEP respects the work that CMRR has done in recent years to re-establish a tourism train on an eastern stretch of the corridor. We also respect the passion and dedication of your members.

However, a proposal like the one in your April 6 letter is neither feasible for CMRR to deliver, nor reasonable for DEP to consider.

Sincerely,

Adam Bosch
Director of Public Affairs
Bureau of Water Supply
NYC DEP