



Long Island Rail Road

January 4, 2010

One Hunters Point
5-49 Borden Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mr. _____ :

I am writing in response to your letter to President Helena E. Williams regarding the MTA Long Island Rail Road's Long Island City (LIC) Passenger Yard.

I was pleased to learn that you, and other residents of One Hunters Point, have reported a reduction in noise as a result of the efforts we have made to address your concerns. Some of the actions taken thus far include:

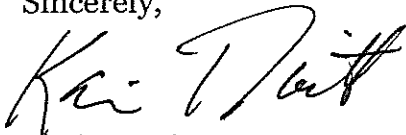
- Our General Manager - Diesel Shops & Yards has instructed staff to send only switch locomotives (multi-purpose engines that move work trains and reconfigure train consists) equipped with SmartStart to the LIC Passenger Yard. SmartStart is a system that manages locomotive shutdowns and restarts in order to reduce idling time and the associated fuel consumption and emissions.
- We have positioned the yard's overnight engine, which is SmartStart-equipped, to the southwestern-most section of the yard, farthest from the condominiums.
- Since late June our mechanical forces have selectively shut down up to six locomotive engines daily, leading to the formation of our current operating strategy. These efforts reduce noise, the emission of particulate matter, and diesel fuel consumption.
- Our Equipment Coordinators, LIC Passenger Yard Yardmaster, and other staff have worked diligently to revise the equipment manipulation cycles to reduce idling times; as a result, some trains now leave the yard sooner. These changes entail additional fueling, and more intensive fuel monitoring for the diesel fleet.
- We have added a machinist on a temporary basis to the yard staff to augment our inspection capabilities and maximize engine shutdown times.
- Dual-mode trains (trains that switch between diesel and electric service) are being put into electric mode when undergoing heavy-duty cleaning, a periodic cleaning that lasts approximately eight hours.
- Maintenance of Equipment forces have been manually shutting down one engine on trainsets that have two locomotives.

- Whenever possible, train consists with a long layover period that are closest to the condominiums will be shut down.

We continue to seek any and all opportunities to reduce idling without compromising service. However, it is important to note one stipulation that will impact certain aspects of our noise-minimization strategy: the diesel shutdown portion of our plan can only be implemented on days when the temperature is forecast to remain above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the temperature falls below this point, the engine protection system empties coolant water and creates a corresponding potential for a significant service disruption, which must be avoided. Moreover, the plan itself is contingent on normal operating conditions, and may be modified, reduced or suspended in order to preserve LIRR service in the event of unforeseen or emergency circumstances.

The LIRR is committed to providing safe, secure and reliable train service to our customers, and we will continue to strive to improve our operation. If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Kevin Davitt
Director – Corporate Communications

cc: Helena E. Williams