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Mayfield Community Update - December 2021

In recent weeks, CSX has received inquiries from the community and City officials regarding locomotive refueling and idling locomotives. We wanted to use this update to provide additional information on these issues as well as expected propane volumes in coming months.

Locomotive Refueling

Locomotives serving the Fredericksburg Yard must be regularly refueled. In the winter refueling occurs about once a week and every two weeks in warmer months.

There is no fuel stored at the CSX Fredericksburg Yard. Because there is no fuel facility in the yard, we utilize outside companies we refer to as “mobile fueling services” to refuel locomotives. These companies use a truck with a portable fuel pump similar to what you would see at a truck stop or gas station and refill the locomotive tanks the same as people fill the tanks in their cars. Fueling vendor employees working on our property are required to complete safety and security training and know and employ the required notification process in the event there was an incident. This safe fueling process occurs across our railroad, and other railroads, hundreds of times every day.

In most cases the refueling occurs on the tracks behind the yard office and the community would only see the mobile fueling service truck when it enters the yard, not during refueling. Occasionally, to support broader network operations, the mobile fueling service truck has to refuel a locomotive moving through the area on the mainline near the entrance to the yard. This is what the community saw on Saturday, December 11th.

We understand the community does not want refueling at the entrance to the yard. We want the community to know this is not typically where refueling occurs and this refueling process was safe and without incident. The alternative to mobile fueling service would be an on-site fuel storage facility, which would be less desirable for all parties.

Idling Locomotives

During cooler months when temperatures could reach the 30s and below, locomotives are idled when not in use to prevent engine blocks from freezing. If an engine freezes, the locomotive engine has to be rebuilt or in some cases the locomotive is retired.

We appreciate that an idling locomotive can be disruptive to our neighbors. To minimize impacts, our crews typically park locomotives on the west side tracks across from the yard office away from the homes on Railroad Ave and Canterbury Rd. Occasionally, due to crew availability, operational constraints or other unexpected issues, locomotives may be parked in other locations, which occurred twice in December.

We apologize for any disturbance this caused and we will continue to do our best to idle locomotives away from residents on Railroad Ave. and Canterbury Rd.

Propane Volume Update

As expected residential and commercial heating needs drove an increase in propane car orders from November to December. Our customer anticipates a slight increase in car orders from December to January, but they expect to ship 20% fewer cars this January compared to last. February and March car orders are expected to be comparable to last year. This generally coincides with the mild weather forecasted for the mid-Atlantic this winter.

These are estimates subject to change offered in an effort to be as transparent as possible. Regardless of number of cars, CSX wants to remind everyone that cars move everyday as part of efficient and safe local service and cars are not stored in the yard.