



MILLSITE UPDATE 03 June 2008

Dear Steam in Action Members,

With reference to SIA's May Newsletter and EXTRA Edition.

A ridiculously tight deadline was imposed for clubs and preservation groups in South Africa to submit their recommendations regarding Millsite. In fact we had less than 48-hours to do this.

Collectively Steam in Action has made a formal application for all 37 locomotives plus a crane at Millsite. For the sake of good order here is the list:

<i>Class 1</i>	1247	<i>Class 14R</i>	1733	<i>Class 19A</i>	685 *
<i>Class 3BR</i>	1474	<i>Class 15A</i>	1555	<i>Class 19D</i>	2540
<i>Class 4AR</i>	1555	<i>Class 15A</i>	1791	<i>Class 25</i>	3451
<i>Class 5B</i>	723	<i>Class 15AR</i>	1820 *	<i>Class GCA</i>	2199
<i>Class 5R</i>	781	<i>Class 15BR</i>	1979	<i>Class GE</i>	2260
<i>Class 6A</i>	462	<i>Class 15CA</i>	2039	<i>Class GM</i>	2292
<i>Class 10C</i>	772	<i>Class 16CR</i>	840	<i>Class S 360</i>	
<i>Class 10C</i>	776 *	<i>Class 16DA</i>	870	<i>Class S1</i>	375
<i>Class 12A</i>	2111	<i>Class 19</i>	1366	<i>Class S2</i>	3765 *

Additional locomotives at Millsite:

<i>16R 794</i>	<i>E1</i>
<i>GEA 4022</i>	<i>E219</i>
<i>15F 2940</i>	<i>E511</i>
<i>8DW 1197</i>	<i>Crane 50</i>
<i>15CB 2060</i>	
<i>A 103</i>	
<i>24 3645</i>	

In terms of the protocols involved the list was submitted via the Heritage Rail Association of South Africa. One should bear in mind that there appears to be an earnest desire on behalf of Transnet to scrap the locomotives at Millsite and therefore the Steam in Action position is that we should clear the site.

With this in mind urgent negotiations were concluded between some of the major preservation organisations to put the logistics in place to take all the 37 locomotives away from the site to safer locations. An application was made on Friday for a YQ (request to operate on Transnet freight lines) whereby we could steam haul most of these locomotives away. Some of the smaller items would be removed by road. Unlike the UK, for example, there are no road hauliers geared to move locomotives in the 100 ton+ range.

As soon as we submitted our application we made contact with HRASA, only to be told that they had decided not to submit the application and instead we received the [attached document](#). We have notwithstanding this notified Transnet that Steam in Action is in a position to clear the site and furthermore we can do so almost immediately.

This week will obviously lead to further negotiations but we are carrying on with our logistics programme to clear the site. In fact there is a meeting being held during the week between SIA and senior officials of Transnet to discuss the matter.

Turning to SIA's members contribution we would like to say the following:

1. Thank you to all of you who contacted Transnet direct. We have no doubt that this was the major reason why scrapping was stopped on the site. May we encourage you to continue to keep up the pressure. For those of you who have not sent an e-mail to Transnet we strongly suggest that you continue to encourage Transnet to release the locomotives to accredited preservation groups and to encourage the authorities to work with Steam in Action (who are in turn attempting to work with HRASA) to save these locomotives. We will worry about the details on the ground. For the sake of good order you should e-mail Vuyo Kahla (cecilia.machaba@transnet.net), copying Susie Mabie (Susie.mabie@transnet.net), and also copying Siyabonga Gama (siyabonga.gama@transnet.net), and Maria Ramos (Wilma.Oosthuisen@transnet.net). We are not entirely sure who makes these decisions but we are confident that if you notify the above of your thoughts they will start to take this matter seriously.
2. Request for assistance with the purchase of coal. If every Steam in Action member contributed 1-ton of coal at a price of R680 (US\$91 or GBP 45) we will be in a position to clear the site completely. The road haulage costs will be covered by the individual clubs and members who recover the locomotives individually. However, since the Millsite debacle unfolded we had an increase in the number of donations from members and to those of you who have sent funds to our trust account we say thank you - the money will be kept in reserve for emergencies similar to the Millsite one. In fact we may revert to members and ask them for their authority to use the funds to road haul locomotives that may not have required funding. Remember we have locomotives at Millsite that go back to the 1880's.

When communicating with Transnet we strongly suggest that those of you who have decided to contribute a ton of coal actually tell them that. In other words, as either an international or local steam enthusiast and supporter of Steam in Action tell the authorities that you have sent funds in order to purchase coal (it is not important how much you contribute - it is the principle involved). We would like the authorities to know that here is sufficient passion, commitment and interest internationally for people to actually club together and ensure that the will exists to clear this site and to prevent any further locomotives from being scrapped.

Each member can address this matter in his own way but it is mandatory that the authorities do not conclude that the programme whereby the commenced cutting up of heritage locomotives at Millsite was nothing more than a storm in a teacup. This is a serious problem which people will reflect upon in 50-100 years from now so it rests on our shoulders to do the right thing.

We ask our members to communicate with the authorities and if at all possible to make a contribution to the coal purchase fund. We are fortunate that coal is significantly cheaper in South Africa than most places around the world but prices are rising and we need to secure the inventory.

Because of the importance of this matter we may well update you again prior to our June newsletter.

Finally, we would like to thank Reefsteamers, Friends of the Rail and other supporters for working around the clock to do whatever they can to stabilise the current position.

Dave Richardson
Executive Director
Steam in Action