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PAINTED POST WATER SALES

Late trains rattle residents

By Jeffery Smith
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PAINTED POST | People living near the railroad tracks in Painted Post know the sound of train horns all too well.

Several residents have complained to village officials about having to endure loud, late-night train horns ever since the village began shipping water from its loading facility, at the old Ingersoll-Rand foundry site, to a storage facility in Wellsboro, Pa., last



A train travels down the middle of Chemung Street in Painted Post. ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER

week.

The Painted Post loading facility, operated by the Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, includes a series of

42 filling stations along a half-mile stretch of railroad tracks.

"When the trains pull in at about 11 p.m., it lights the whole area up," said Emily Northrup, a village

resident. "The horns are loud, the brakes are loud, and it wakes everybody up. They should do a better job than they are doing."

Painted Post Police Chief Robert Halm said some residents who live right next to the railroad tracks have said their homes shake when the train passes through, generally about 12:15 a.m.

"There have been some complaints about the noise," Halm said.

The village water is generally picked up at the

filling station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at about 10:30 p.m., and leaves the station a little after midnight, village officials said.

The village signed a deal in July to sell up to 1.5 million gallons of water per day to Houston-based SWEPI LP, a Shell subsidiary, for use in high-volume hydraulic fracturing in shale drilling operations in Pennsylvania.

The village could make

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an estimated \$2.6 million annually in water sales, according to village officials.

Painted Post Mayor Roz Crozier could not be reached Saturday for

comment.

A lawsuit was filed in late June against the village, the Wellsboro and Corning Railroad, and SWEPI LP, by environmental groups The Sierra Club, People for a Healthy Environment and The Coalition to Protect New York, along with

five local residents.

The suit claims the village's state-required environmental review failed to properly consider the impacts of the water deal. A court hearing date in the lawsuit was delayed and has not yet been set.