

Chapter 9

Outreach and Coordination

Chapter 9 provides information on the public involvement and agency coordination activities that were conducted as part of SEA's environmental review process, introduced in Chapter 1. SEA implemented an extensive public outreach and agency coordination effort to ensure that it informed potentially affected individuals and organizations about the Proposed Action and its potential environmental effects. Public comments will allow SEA to assess public concerns and issues and determine whether additional environmental analysis and mitigation measures are necessary in preparing the Final EIS

9.1 Role of SEA and Its Independent Third-Party Contractors

SEA prepared this Draft EIS to ensure that the Proposed Action complies with the regulatory requirements under NEPA, the Board's environmental regulations and the applicable rules and regulations. SEA is responsible for conducting the environmental review of the Proposed Action on behalf of the Board. In accordance with 49 USC 11323-11325, the Board is the Federal agency responsible for granting authority for the acquisition of control of rail lines. According to NEPA regulations, the "lead agency" is "the agency ... preparing or having taken primary responsibility for preparing the environmental impact statement" (40 CFR 1508.16). Accordingly, the Board, through SEA, is the lead agency responsible for preparing this Draft EIS. In preparing the Draft EIS, SEA identified issues and areas of potential environmental impact of the Proposed Action and alternatives, reviewed agency and public comments, and analyzed and documented the anticipated impacts on the environment.

After SEA reviews all of the public comments are received on this Draft EIS, conducts any additional environmental analysis that may be needed, reviews all other environmental information that may be provided, and consults with appropriate commenters and agencies, SEA will prepare a Final EIS.

9.2 Public Involvement and Outreach

SEA conducted an extensive public outreach program to encourage broad participation in the environmental review process. SEA invited interested members of the public, communities, and organizations to participate in the scoping process by reviewing and commenting on the Draft Scope of the EIS. In addition, SEA conducted targeted outreach activities to minority and low-income populations (also known as environmental justice populations) to engage them in the environmental review process. Appendix A, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials, presents the public participation materials that SEA developed and used to inform the public and government agencies about the Proposed Action and its potential environmental effects.

9.2.1 Scoping Process

During the scoping process, SEA informed the public about the Proposed Action, described the environmental review's purpose and process, and gathered public comments on the Draft Scope of the EIS. SEA's public involvement efforts in the scoping process are described below and include public notices, media outreach, announcement posters, an environmental distribution list, a website, public scoping meetings, Federal Register notices, a toll-free project information line, an electronic

filing system for receiving comments, an extension of the comment period, and project update mailings. This discussion also includes data on meeting attendance and other scoping participation.

9.2.1.1 Public Notices

The Board published the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Federal Register on December 21, 2007, announcing the start of the scoping process and the dates and times of public meetings (FR 2007a). The Board published the Notice of Availability of the Final Scope of Study for the EIS in the Federal Register on April 28, 2008 (FR 2008).

The Board issued a press release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS on July 25, 2008, and EPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register when this Draft EIS is available for review and comment.

9.2.1.2 Media Outreach

The Board issued four media releases on December 12 and 27, 2007, January 7, 2008, and July 25, 2008. To advertise the scoping meetings, public notices and quarter-page advertisements were placed in the following 27 Chicago-area newspapers (25 in Illinois and two in Indiana) during the weeks of December 27, 2007, and January 7, 2008:

- Barrington Courier-Review
- Batavia/Geneva/St. Charles Republican (three newspapers)
- Beacon News (Aurora)
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune
- Courier News (Elgin)
- Downers Grove Reporter/Westmont Progress (two newspapers)
- Glen Ellyn News/Wheaton Leader (two newspapers)
- Grayslake Journal
- Herald News (Joliet)
- Lake Forester (Lake Forest)
- Lemont Reporter
- Naperville Sun
- News-Sun (Waukegan)
- Northwest Herald (McHenry County)
- Post-Tribune (Merrillville, Indiana)
- Regional News (Palos Heights)
- Southtown Star (Tinley Park, formerly the Daily Southtown)
- Times (Northwest Indiana)
- Warrenville-West Chicago-Winfield Press (three newspapers)
- Wauconda Journal

On July 25, 2008 the Board issued a press release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS.

9.2.1.3 *Announcement Posters*

SEA placed posters announcing the public scoping meetings in 38 public libraries and one village hall, which together serve 49 communities along the EJ&E rail system. Table 9.2-1 below provides the associated communities and the locations of the announcement posters.

Table 9.2-1. Announcement Poster Locations		
Community	Public Library or Village Hall	Address
Aurora, Illinois	Aurora Public Library	233 S. Constitution Dr., Aurora, IL 60506
Barrington, Barrington Hills, and South Barrington, Illinois	Barrington Area Library	505 N. Northwest Hwy., Barrington, IL 60010
Bartlett, Illinois	Bartlett Public Library	800 S. Bartlett Rd., Bartlett, IL 60103
Bolingbrook, Illinois	Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook	300 W. Briarcliff Rd., Bolingbrook, IL 60440
Chicago, Illinois	Harold Washington Library Center	400 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60605
Chicago Heights, Illinois	Chicago Heights Public Library	25 W. 15 th St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Crest Hill, Illinois	Crest Hill Public Library	1298 Theodore St., Crest Hill, IL 60403
Crystal Lawns, Fairmont, and Joliet, Illinois	Joliet Public Library	150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432
Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich, Long Grove, and Mettawa, Illinois	Ela Area Public Library	275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL 60047
East Chicago, Indiana	Robert A. Pastrick Branch Library	1008 W. Chicago Ave., East Chicago, IN 46312
Elgin, Illinois	Gail Borden Public Library	270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
Frankfort, Illinois	Frankfort Public Library	Pfeiffer Rd. at Rte. 30, Frankfort, IL 60423
Gary, Indiana	Gary Public Library	220 W. 5 th Ave., Gary, IN 46402
Green Oaks and Libertyville, Illinois	Cook Park Public Library	413 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048
Griffith, Indiana	Lake County Public Library-Griffith Branch	940 N. Broad St., Griffith, IN 46319
Hammond, Indiana	Hammond Public Library	564 State St., Hammond, IN 46320
Hoffman Estates, Illinois	Hoffman Estates Branch Library	1550 Hassell Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
Indian Creek and Vernon Hills, Illinois	Vernon Hills Village Hall	290 Evergreen Dr., Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Lake Bluff, Illinois	Lake Bluff Public Library	123 E. Scranton Ave., Lake Bluff, IL 60044
Lockport, Illinois	Lockport Public Library	121 E. 8 th St., Lockport, IL 60441
Lynwood, Illinois	South Cook ISC 4 Library	253 W. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Matteson, Illinois	Matteson Public Library	801 S. School Ave., Matteson, IL 60443
Minooka, Illinois	Three Rivers Public Library-Minooka Branch	109 N. Wabena Ave., Minooka, IL 60447
Mundelein, Illinois	Fremont Public Library	1170 N. Midlothian Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060
Naperville, Illinois	Nichols Library	200 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville, IL 60540

Table 9.2-1. Announcement Poster Locations		
Community	Public Library or Village Hall	Address
New Lenox, Illinois	New Lenox Public Library	120 Veterans Pkwy., New Lenox, IL 60451
North Chicago, Illinois	North Chicago Public Library	2100 Argonne Dr., North Chicago, IL 60064
Park Forest, Illinois	Park Forest Public Library	400 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, IL 60466
Plainfield, Illinois	Plainfield Public Library	15025 S. Illinois St., Plainfield, IL 60544
Richton Park, Illinois	Richton Park Public Library	4045 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Rockdale, Illinois	Will County Law Library	14 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432
Romeoville, Illinois	Fountaindale Public Library in Romeoville	201 Normantown Rd., Romeoville, IL 60446
Sauk Village, Illinois	McConathy Public Library	21737 Jeffrey Ave., Sauk Village, IL 60411
Schererville, Indiana	Dyer-Schererville Branch Lake County Public Library	1001 W. Lincoln Hwy., Schererville, IN 46375
Warrenville, Illinois	Warrenville Public Library	28W751 Stafford Pl., Warrenville, IL 60555
Waukegan, Illinois	Waukegan Public Library	128 N. County St., Waukegan, IL 60085
Wayne, Illinois	St. Charles Public Library	1 S. 6 th Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174
West Chicago, Illinois	West Chicago Public Library	118 W. Washington St., West Chicago, IL 60185
Whiting, Indiana	Whiting Public Library	1735 Oliver St., Whiting, IN 46394

9.2.1.4 Environmental Distribution List

SEA maintains an environmental distribution list composed of individuals that have expressed an interest in the Proposed Action, local elected officials, and state and Federal agencies. SEA sent letters announcing the public scoping meetings to the approximately 350 individuals on the list as of December 28, 2008. SEA continues to update the environmental distribution list as individuals submit environmental comments and if individuals request to be added. The list currently includes 4,737 contacts.

9.2.1.5 Website

The Board maintains a website, available at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Along with general information about the Board and SEA, the website provides information specific to this Proposed Action and all environmental correspondence from the Applicants, Federal, state and local agencies, interested parties, and the general public.

To assist the public in accessing information related to the Proposed Action, SEA has developed a specific website to provide information on the environmental review. The website is available at <http://www.stbfinancedocket35087.com>. The website provides a project overview; public comment information; links to documents including the NOI, Draft Scope and Final Scope of the EIS, information requests from SEA to CN and responses to these information requests; links to the Board, CN, and EJ&E websites; and SEA contact information.

9.2.1.6 Public Scoping Meetings

SEA held 14 public scoping meetings at seven locations throughout the Chicago metropolitan area in January 2008. The meetings were held in an open-house format. Two meetings were held per location, one from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and one from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meetings were held:

- January 8, 2008: Mundelein, Illinois
- January 9, 2008: Barrington, Illinois
- January 10, 2008: Joliet, Illinois
- January 15, 2008: Matteson, Illinois
- January 16, 2008: Gary, Indiana
- January 17, 2008: West Chicago, Illinois
- January 22, 2008: Chicago, Illinois

SEA contacted 301 local elected officials to notify them of these scoping meetings. At these meetings, 2,612 people signed the attendance sheets and 1,347 individuals provided oral and written comments. SEA received an additional 1,268 written comments by mail during the scoping period.

9.2.1.7 Project Information Line

SEA set up a toll-free project information line (1-800-347-0689) for public comments for the duration of the environmental review. A Spanish-language option is available (see Appendix A, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials). The project information line received 219 individual comments during scoping.

9.2.1.8 Electronic Filing System

Commenters provided 858 individual comments during scoping using the Board's electronic filing system <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

9.2.1.9 Comment Period Extension

In response to comments from the public, SEA extended the scoping comment period from February 1 to February 15, 2008. To advertise the extension, the Board mailed 3,038 postcards to those on the environmental distribution list and sent 47 letters to Federal and state agencies during the week of January 28, 2008. SEA reissued its media release to the aforementioned 27 Chicago-area newspapers and sent 302 emails and faxes to elected officials, including congressmen and local officials, to inform them of the extension.

9.2.1.10 Project Update Mailings

SEA mailed approximately 5,000 project update postcards to those on the environmental distribution list on February 25, 2008, and it mailed 20 project update letters to senators and congressmen during the week of March 10, 2008.

9.2.2 Targeted Outreach Activities to Minority and Low-Income Populations

Consistent with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, SEA places special focus on outreach activities to minority and low-income populations to ensure that all parties have meaningful involvement in the environmental review process and that their issues and concerns are fully considered (FR 1994). Therefore, SEA created a strategy for targeted outreach to minority and low-income stakeholders (see Appendix A, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials).

SEA identified 28 communities with minority and low-income populations potentially affected by the Proposed Action. The Illinois communities identified are Aurora, Bolingbrook, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Crest Hill, Elgin, Fairmont, Hoffman Estates, Joliet, Lynwood, Matteson, Mundelein, North Chicago, Park Forest, Richton Park, Rockdale, Romeoville, Sauk Village, South Barrington, Vernon Hills, Warrenville, Waukegan, and West Chicago. The Indiana communities are East Chicago, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, and Whiting.

SEA then conducted targeted and specific outreach efforts to ensure that these communities had, and continue to have, access to information on the Proposed Action and the opportunity to fully participate in the environmental review process, including direct calls to elected officials regarding the environmental review process, public scoping meetings, and meetings with local representatives. SEA initiated this outreach during the scoping phase, and it will continue throughout the environmental review process.

9.2.2.1 Direct Calls

SEA contacted elected officials who represent minority and low-income populations to remind them of the upcoming scoping meetings and to ensure that each representative had a copy of the NOI. SEA placed calls to aides of U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (Illinois), Illinois State Representative William Davis (District 30), Illinois State Representative Al Riley (District 38), Illinois State Representative Fred Crespo (District 44), and Illinois State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia (District 83).

9.2.2.2 Meetings with Local Representatives

SEA held 21 meetings at the locations identified in Table 9.2-2 on the following page. SEA met with community representatives, church representatives, or state senators or representatives either on location or via telephone. When meeting with a state senator or representative, SEA worked with the elected official to identify key community representatives who were not previously contacted. At the meetings, SEA distributed education materials on the Proposed Action, as well as Board contact information for questions about the process. In addition, SEA provided Spanish-language translators as needed.

Date	Meeting Location	Primary Contact
April 18, 2008	Elgin, Illinois	Sen. Michael Noland
April 18, 2008	Lemont, Illinois	Sen. Christine Radogno
April 21, 2008	Elgin, Illinois	Rep. Ruth Munson
April 22, 2008	Gary, Indiana	Rev. R.T. Mitchell, New Revelations Baptist Church
April 22, 2008	Mokena, Illinois	Rep. Renée Kosel
April 23, 2008	Chicago, Illinois	Sen. Karen Tallian (Indiana)
April 23, 2008	Chicago Heights, Illinois (via telephone)	Sen. Debbie Halvorson
April 24, 2008	Buffalo Grove, Illinois	Sen. William (Bill) Peterson
April 29, 2008	Mundelein, Illinois (via telephone)	Rep. Kathy Ryg
April 29, 2008	Joliet, Illinois	Fr. Raymond Corkery, Our Lady of Mount Carmel
April 29, 2008	Crest Hill, Illinois	Mayor Nick Churnovic
May 5, 2008	Aurora, Illinois (via telephone)	Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia
May 8, 2008	Park Forest, Illinois	Village Manager Tom Mick
May 12, 2008	Matteson, Illinois	James Bragg, New Faith Baptist International Church
May 13, 2008	Chicago Heights, Illinois	Executive Administrator Frank Perez
May 13, 2008	Chicago Heights, Illinois	Director of Projects Michael Sobo
May 28, 2008	Joliet, Illinois	Pastor Roberto Flores, Asamblea Apostolica
June 2, 2008	Plainfield, Illinois	Rep. Tom Cross
June 2, 2008	Plainfield, Illinois	Sen. Linda Holmes
June 2, 2008	Aurora, Illinois	Mayor Tom Weisner
June 3, 2008	Aurora, Illinois	Arthur Velasquez, League of United Latin American Citizens
June 9, 2008	Elgin, Illinois	Jaime Garcia, Centro de Informacion

9.3 Agency Coordination

SEA invited agencies with jurisdiction, expertise, or interest in the Proposed Action to participate in the environmental review process. The agencies identified in the following sections were asked to help identify potential environmental issues and concerns within the Study Area. Their comments helped SEA determine what level of environmental analysis was warranted for the Proposed Action. In addition to consultations with Federal, state, and local agencies with interest or jurisdiction in the Proposed Action, SEA has also cooperated with staff from Congressional offices, concerned citizens, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and others, describing the environmental review process, the Board's licensing role, the decision-making process, and responding to questions.

During the environmental review process, SEA works closely with Federal agencies that have jurisdiction and expertise in railroad operations and other areas. This section discusses the agencies that are typically most involved in the Board proceedings (Section 9.3.1, below), describes the other agencies and groups with which SEA has consulted during the environmental review process in this proceeding to date (Section 9.3.2, below), and summarizes the agency scoping and stakeholder meetings (Section 9.3.3, below). Appendix A, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials, presents the public participation materials that SEA developed and used to inform the public and government agencies about the Proposed Action and its potential environmental effects.

9.3.1 Federal Agencies

Under 40 CFR 1503.2, “Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved and agencies which are authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards shall comment on statements within their jurisdiction, expertise, or authority.” Thus, Federal agencies shall review and comment on an EIS for a proposed action within their jurisdiction and area of expertise. An agency may reply that it has no comment on the EIS. Table 9.3-1 below identifies the key Federal agencies that are participating in the environmental review process.

Agency	Agency Jurisdiction or Area of Expertise
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	ACHP encourages Federal agencies to fully consider historic resources in Federal project planning. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) requires Federal agencies, such as the Board, to consider the effects of Federal actions or undertakings on historic properties (any district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places).
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District	Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 CFR 1344), USACE has jurisdiction over activities that result in the discharge of dredge or fill material into U.S. waters, including lakes, rivers, streams, oxbows, ponds, and wetlands. Activities that affect these systems require a permit from USACE.
U.S. Coast Guard, Eighth District	Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 401) requires approval of the location of, and plans for, bridges over navigable waters of the U.S. before construction begins. This requirement is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis, Region 5, and Office of Federal Activities	EPA oversees and implements Federal environmental laws. EPA also provides guidance on compliance with certain Executive Orders that involve environmental considerations. Under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7609), EPA reviews and comments on the environmental impacts of major Federal actions for which an EIS is prepared under NEPA. EPA’s Office of Federal Activities, which is responsible for reviewing the EIS, evaluates the quality of analysis in the EIS and the extent of the proposal’s impact on the environment.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Midwest Region Office, Chicago Field Office, and the Northern Indiana Ecological Services Sub-Office	USFWS implements the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under Section 7 of the ESA (16 USC 1536), USFWS reviews Federal agency actions and expected impacts to threatened or endangered species. USFWS can issue a determination, in the form of a biological opinion, which details the expected impacts to threatened or endangered species. The Board is responsible for initiating Section 7 consultation with USFWS.
U.S. Department of Energy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab)	Fermilab provides leadership and resources for qualified researchers to conduct basic research at the frontiers of high-energy physics and related disciplines.

9.3.2 Other Agencies and Groups

SEA invited state, and local agencies as well as other groups to participate in the environmental review process.

9.3.2.1 Native American Groups

SEA invited the following Native American groups to participate in the environmental review process:

- Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin
- Hannahville Indian Community Council
- Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Miami Nation of Indians of the State of Indiana
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Potawatomi Nation
- Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

Copies of correspondence received from Native American groups can be found in Appendix O.

9.3.2.2 State and Local Agencies

SEA invited the state and local agencies identified in Table 9.3-3, below, to participate in the environmental review process. Copies of agendas from agency meetings are included in Appendix A.

Table 9.3-2. Invited State and Local Agencies	
Agency	Agency Jurisdiction or Area of Expertise
Illinois State Agencies	
Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), Transportation Bureau/Rail Safety Section	ICC is the state agency with regulatory authority over Illinois railroads. Its rail safety staff responds to inquiries and complaints and conducts specialized inspections of railroad tracks, rail operations, hazardous material transportation, and grade crossing signal systems. The commission also monitors railroad right-of-way and grade crossing surface conditions, as well as visibility obstructions at rail crossings.
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)	IDNR's mission is to manage, protect, and sustain Illinois' natural and cultural resources, to provide resource-compatible recreational opportunities, and to promote natural resource-related issues for the public's safety and education.
Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), District 1	IDOT's mission is to provide safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois that enhances quality of life, promotes economic prosperity, and demonstrates respect for the environment. District 1 includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties.
IDOT, Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation, Bureau of Railroads	The Bureau of Railroads administers the state's freight and passenger rail programs, including the rail freight program, passenger rail, and high-speed rail capital projects, and provides operating assistance for supplemental Amtrak service.
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)	IEPA's mission is to safeguard environmental air and water quality and to protect human health and the environment by ensuring that hazardous and solid waste is managed in a sound manner.
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency	The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is responsible for protecting historic, architectural, and archeological sites as part of the public planning process and administering Federally and state-mandated legislation.
State of Illinois, Office of the Governor	Rod Blagojevich is the governor of the State of Illinois.
Indiana State Agencies	
Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)	IDEM's mission is to implement Federal and state environmental regulations. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs, and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting and improving Indiana's environment.
Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology	The Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology promotes the conservation of Indiana's cultural resources through public education efforts; financial incentives, including several grant and tax credit programs; and the administration of Federal and state legislation.
Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program	The purpose of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program is to enhance the state's role in planning for and managing natural and cultural resources in the coastal region.
Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)	INDOT's mission is to plan, build, maintain, and operate a superior transportation system that enhances safety, mobility, and economic growth.
State of Indiana, Office of the Governor	Anne Valentine, Transportation, Administration, and Technology Policy Director, serves as Governor Mitch Daniels' policy expert on transportation, as well as managing a portfolio of state agencies, including INDOT, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Department of Administration, Office of Technology, Arts Commission and State Fair.

Table 9.3-2. Invited State and Local Agencies	
Agency	Agency Jurisdiction or Area of Expertise
County Governments	
Cook County, Illinois (including the Department of Highways)	The Department of Highways is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the county highway system.
DuPage County, Illinois (including the Division of Transportation)	The Division of Transportation is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the county highway system.
Grundy County, Illinois	The Grundy County Board administers affairs of the county through 17 committees, including the Highway Department Committee.
Kane County, Illinois	The Kane County Board establishes the budgets that use county funds and levies taxes for county purposes. The County Board adopts ordinances and rules pertaining to the management and business of county departments.
Kendall County, Illinois	The Kendall County Board sets county policy, ordinances, and budget appropriations for programs.
Lake County, Illinois (including the Division of Transportation)	The Division of Transportation issues special movement permits, utility permits, and access permits for county highways in municipalities and unincorporated areas.
Lake County, Indiana (including the Highway Department)	The Highway Department is responsible for all roads, bridges, and small structures (less than 20-foot span) within Lake County that are not state highways or within the corporate limits of a city or town.
Will County, Illinois (including the Land Use Department and the Department of Highways)	The Land Use Department administers and enforces adopted ordinances relating to new and existing development within the county. The Department of Highways is responsible for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of county highways and bridges.
Regional Governments	
Barrington Area Council of Governments	The Barrington Area Council of Governments is a voluntary organization of elected officials representing seven local villages and two townships in the Barrington area: Barrington, Barrington Hills, Barrington Township, Cuba Township, Deer Park, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, South Barrington, and Tower Lakes.
DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference	The DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference is a council of elected and appointed officials from 34 municipal governments. The conference is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing municipal public policy issues.
Lake County Council of Mayors, Illinois	The Lake County Council of Mayors is authorized by the Chicago Area Transportation Study Policy Committee to provide input into the region's transportation policy decisions, facilitate communication between local governments and regional transportation agencies, establish priorities, and implement transportation projects.
Northwest Municipal Conference	The Northwest Municipal Conference represents more than 1.3 million people in 47 municipalities and three townships in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and McHenry counties (Illinois).
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)	NIRPC is a regional council of local governments serving the three counties of northwestern Indiana.
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association	The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association is an intergovernmental agency providing technical assistance and joint services to 42 municipalities representing a population of more than 650,000 in Cook and Will counties.
Will County Governmental League	The Will County Governmental League is a not-for-profit organization composed of 29 municipalities and Will County. The League provides a forum for municipalities to discuss and resolve regional issues of mutual concern. The scope of activities includes transportation, legislation, and intergovernmental relations.

Table 9.3-2. Invited State and Local Agencies	
Agency	Agency Jurisdiction or Area of Expertise
Forest Preserves	
Forest Preserve District of Cook County	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County's mission is to acquire lands containing natural forests and to preserve forests for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public.
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County	The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's mission is to acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, and wetlands and to preserve and protect them for the public's education, pleasure, and recreation.
Forest Preserve District of Will County	The Forest Preserve District of Will County's mission is to restore, preserve, and protect the forests and prairies of Will County for the public's education, pleasure, and recreation.
Lake County Forest Preserve District	The Lake County Forest Preserve District's mission is to preserve a system of natural and cultural resources, and to develop education, recreation, and cultural opportunities.
Other	
Amtrak	Amtrak is a commuter and passenger rail system that serves Illinois and Indiana with both long-distance and corridor services. Amtrak is also known as the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)	CMAP integrates planning for land use and transportation in the seven counties of northeastern Illinois.
Environmental Law & Policy Center	The Environmental Law & Policy Center is a public interest environmental advocacy organization in the Midwest.
Gary/Chicago International Airport	The Gary/Chicago International Airport is about 25 miles from downtown Chicago. The EJ&E Western Subdivision runs near the airport.
Metra	Metra is a commuter rail system serving northeastern Illinois, with 228 stations in a six-county area. Metra connects downtown Chicago and its surrounding areas.
Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD)	NICTD operates the passenger and commuter rail service for northwestern Indiana to provide an alternative, reliable form of transportation to jobs, schools, museums, and recreational opportunities in Chicago.
Pace	Pace is a suburban transit provider in Chicago's suburbs. Pace serves riders with fixed bus routes, van pools, and Dial-a-Ride programs. Pace covers 3,500 square miles and is one of North America's largest bus services.
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)	RTA is the financial oversight and regional planning body for the three public transit operators in northeastern Illinois—the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, and Pace.
Save the Dunes Council	The Save the Dunes Council's mission is to preserve, protect, and restore the Indiana Dunes and all natural resources in northwestern Indiana's Lake Michigan watershed.

9.3.2.3 Elected Officials

The following United States senators and representatives participated in the environmental review process:

- U.S. Senator Barack Obama (Illinois)
- U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (Illinois)
- U.S. Senator Evan Bayh (Indiana)
- U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (Indiana)
- U.S. Representative Melissa Bean (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Judy Biggert (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Jerry F. Costello (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Bill Foster (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Timothy V. Johnson (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Donald Manzullo (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Peter J. Roskam (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Jerry Weller (Illinois)
- U.S. Representative Peter J. Visclosky (Indiana)
- U.S. Representative Candice Miller (Michigan)
- U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (Michigan)
- U.S. Representative Timothy Walberg (Michigan)

9.3.2.4 State Elected Officials

SEA invited elected officials from Illinois, Indiana, and New York, as identified in Table 9.3-4, below, to participate in the environmental review process.

Table 9.3-3. Invited State Legislators	
District	Name
Illinois	
4	Sen. Kimberly Lightford
19	Sen. Maggie Crotty
22	Sen. Michael Noland
26	Sen. William (Bill) Peterson
30	Sen. Terry Link
32	Sen. Pamela Althoff
40	Sen. Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson
41	Sen. Christine Radogno
42	Sen. Linda Holmes
1	Rep. Susana Mendoza
5	Rep. Kenneth Dunkin
7	Rep. Karen Yarbrough
17	Rep. Elizabeth Coulson
28	Rep. Robert Rita
30	Rep. William Davis
36	Rep. James Brosnahan
38	Rep. Al Riley
43	Rep. Ruth Munson
44	Rep. Fred Crespo
52	Rep. Mark Beaubien, Jr.
54	Rep. Suzanne Bassi
57	Rep. Elaine Nekritz
59	Rep. Kathleen Ryg
64	Rep. Michael Tryon
66	Rep. Carolyn Krause
81	Rep. Renée Kosel
83	Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia
84	Rep. Tom Cross
95	Rep. Mike Fortner
Indiana	
4	Sen. Karen Tallian
14	Rep. Vernon Smith
New York	
59	Sen. Dale Volker

9.3.3 Agency Scoping and Stakeholder Meetings

SEA’s ongoing coordination effort provides agencies with information about the Proposed Action and interested parties with opportunities to be involved in agency scoping and stakeholder meetings.

9.3.3.1 Agency Scoping Meetings

In addition to public scoping meetings, SEA held agency scoping meetings with Federal, state, and local agencies in Illinois and Indiana, as well as with each passenger rail carrier in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana, and with Fermilab. On December 31, 2007, SEA mailed letters of notification to 41 Federal, state, and local agencies and agency representatives, inviting them to attend an agency scoping meeting and to provide comments on the Proposed Action. Twelve agencies attended the Illinois scoping meeting; three agencies attended the Indiana scoping meeting. SEA met with representatives from Metra, NICTD, Amtrak, and Fermilab separately from the Illinois and Indiana agency scoping meetings. Table 9.3-5, below, lists agency scoping meeting dates and participants.

Date	Agency
January 10, 2008	Metra
January 16, 2008	Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
January 23, 2008 (Illinois agency scoping meeting in Chicago)	Barrington Area Council of Governments Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Forest Preserve District of Cook County Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Illinois Commerce Commission Illinois Department of Natural Resources Illinois Department of Transportation, District 1 Lake County Forest Preserve District Regional Transportation Authority U.S. Department of Energy, Fermilab U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 Will County Land Use Department
January 24, 2008 (Indiana agency scoping meeting in Indianapolis)	Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lake Michigan Coastal Program Indiana Department of Transportation Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
January 25, 2008	Amtrak
February 7, 2008	U.S. Department of Energy, Fermilab

SEA invited these agencies to submit comments during the public scoping period. SEA used the comments collected from the agencies to identify issues that needed further review during the environmental review process.

9.3.3.2 Stakeholder Meetings

At the Illinois agency scoping meeting on January 23, 2008, a number of agencies asked for a greater role in development of the Draft EIS. In response, SEA established the following five stakeholder focus area groups:

- Illinois Natural Resources/Water Resources Agencies
- Illinois Transportation/Safety Agencies
- Illinois Local Governments
- Northern Indiana Agencies/Governments
- Indiana State Agencies

SEA invited 38 agencies to participate in the stakeholder focus area groups and to provide feedback in their areas of expertise. SEA sent letters of notification for the stakeholder meetings to agencies and agency representatives a minimum of 15 days before the meetings. The letters invited the agencies to attend a stakeholder meeting and to provide comments on the Proposed Action. SEA held these meetings in Chicago, Illinois; Portage, Indiana; and Indianapolis, Indiana. Table 9.3-6, below, lists stakeholder meeting dates and participants.

Table 9.3-5. Participants in Stakeholder Meetings		
Date	Stakeholder Focus Area Group	Agency
April 29, 2008	Illinois Natural Resources/ Water Resources Agencies	Barrington Area Council of Governments Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Forest Preserve District of Cook County Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Forest Preserve District of Will County Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Region 2 Lake County Forest Preserve District U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois
April 29, 2008	Illinois Transportation/ Safety Agencies	Amtrak Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning DuPage County, Division of Transportation Environmental Law & Policy Center Illinois Department of Transportation, District 1 Lake County, Illinois, Division of Transportation Metra Pace Regional Transportation Authority U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 Will County, Department of Highways
April 30, 2008	Illinois Local Governments	Barrington Area Council of Governments Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference Northwest Municipal Conference South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association Village of Barrington Village of Barrington Hills West Central Municipal Conference

Date	Stakeholder Focus Area Group	Agency
April 30, 2008	Northern Indiana Agencies/Governments	City of Gary, City Engineer City of Gary, Deputy Mayor City of Gary, Law Department Gary/Chicago International Airport Izaak Walton League Lake County (Indiana) Commissioners Lake County Manager Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Town of Dyer Town of Griffith Town of Highland Town of Merrillville Town of Munster Town of Schererville United Transportation Union #740 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana U.S. Representative Visclosky's Office
May 1, 2008	Indiana State Agencies	Indiana Department of Natural Resources Indiana Department of Transportation, Chief Legal Counsel Indiana Department of Transportation, Chief of Staff Indiana Department of Transportation, Office of Rail State of Indiana, Office of the Governor

SEA provided all participants in the stakeholder meeting with a copy of the Final Scope of the EIS. The stakeholders reviewed the methodologies and data sources used in the analysis for the Draft EIS, offered comments and suggestions, and provided additional data. The Final Scope of the Draft EIS was revised based on comments received.

9.4 Distribution of Draft EIS

SEA mailed letters on May 8, 2008, to all 4,737 contacts on the environmental distribution list and offered them the option of reviewing the Draft EIS at the Board's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, receiving a printed copy of the Executive Summary along with the CD-ROM of the Draft EIS, or being removed from the distribution list. The public can also review printed copies of the Draft EIS at the 49 public libraries and one village hall that are located in the communities along the EJ&E rail system, listed in Table 9.5-1, below. These communities include those where meetings will not be held. Based on input from commenters, SEA will send out over 5,000 copies of the Draft EIS on CD-ROM.

Community	Public Library or Village Hall	Address
Illinois (alphabetical listing)		
Aurora, Illinois	Aurora Public Library	233 S. Constitution Dr., Aurora, IL 60506
Barrington, Barrington Hills, and South Barrington, Illinois	Barrington Area Library	505 N. Northwest Hwy., Barrington, IL 60010
Bartlett, Illinois	Bartlett Public Library	800 S. Bartlett Rd., Bartlett, IL 60103
Blue Island, Illinois	Blue Island Public Library	2300 York St., Blue Island, IL 60406
Bolingbrook, Illinois	Fountaindale Public Library in	300 W. Briarcliff Rd., Bolingbrook,

Table 9.4-1. Locations to Review the Draft EIS

Community	Public Library or Village Hall	Address
	Bolingbrook	IL 60440
Buffalo Grove, Illinois	Indian Trails Public Library	355 Schoenbeck Rd., Wheeling, IL 60090
Carbondale, Illinois	Carbondale Public Library	405 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL 62901
Centralia, Illinois	Centralia Public Library	515 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801
Champaign, Illinois	Champaign Public Library	200 W. Green St., Champaign, IL 61820
Chicago, Illinois	Harold Washington Library Center	400 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60605
Chicago Heights, Illinois	Chicago Heights Public Library	25 W. 15 th St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Crest Hill, Illinois	Crest Hill Public Library	1298 Theodore St., Crest Hill, IL 60403
Crystal Lawns, Fairmont, and Joliet, Illinois	Joliet Public Library	150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432
Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich, Long Grove, and Mettawa, Illinois	Ela Area Public Library	275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Elgin, Illinois	Gail Borden Public Library	270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
Frankfort, Illinois	Frankfort Public Library	Pfeiffer Rd. at Rt. 30, Frankfort, IL 60423
Glen Ellyn, Illinois	Glen Ellyn Public Library	400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Green Oaks and Libertyville, Illinois	Cook Park Public Library	413 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048
Hoffman Estates, Illinois	Hoffman Estates Branch Library	1550 Hassell Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
Indian Creek and Vernon Hills, Illinois	Vernon Hills Village Hall	290 Evergreen Dr., Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Lake Bluff, Illinois	Lake Bluff Public Library	123 E. Scranton Ave., Lake Bluff, IL 60044
Lockport, Illinois	Lockport Public Library	121 E. 8 th St., Lockport, IL 60441
Lynwood, Illinois	South Cook ISC 4 Library	253 W. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Matteson, Illinois	Matteson Public Library	801 S. School Ave., Matteson, IL 60443
Minooka, Illinois	Three Rivers Public Library-Minooka Branch	109 N. Wabena Ave., Minooka, IL 60447
Mokena, Illinois	Mokena Public Library	11327 W. 195 th St., Mokena, IL 60448
Mundelein, Illinois	Fremont Public Library	1170 N. Midlothian Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060
Naperville, Illinois	Nichols Library	200 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville, IL 60540
New Lenox, Illinois	New Lenox Public Library	120 Veterans Pkwy., New Lenox, IL 60451
North Chicago, Illinois	North Chicago Public Library	2100 Argonne Dr., North Chicago, IL 60064
Park Forest, Illinois	Park Forest Public Library	400 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, IL 60466
Plainfield, Illinois	Plainfield Public Library	15025 S. Illinois St., Plainfield, IL 60544
Richton Park, Illinois	Richton Park Public Library	4045 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Rockdale, Illinois	Will County Law Library	14 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432

Table 9.4-1. Locations to Review the Draft EIS		
Community	Public Library or Village Hall	Address
Romeoville, Illinois	Fountaindale Public Library in Romeoville	201 Normantown Rd., Romeoville, IL 60446
Sauk Village, Illinois	McConathy Public Library	21737 Jeffrey Ave., Sauk Village, IL 60411
Warrenville, Illinois	Warrenville Public Library	28W751 Stafford Pl., Warrenville, IL 60555
Waukegan, Illinois	Waukegan Public Library	128 N. County St., Waukegan, IL 60085
Wayne, Illinois	St. Charles Public Library	1 S. 6 th Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174
West Chicago, Illinois	West Chicago Public Library	118 W. Washington St., West Chicago, IL 60185
Wheaton, Illinois	Wheaton Public Library	225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187
Indiana (alphabetical listing)		
East Chicago, Indiana	Robert A. Pastrick Branch Library	1008 W. Chicago Ave., East Chicago, IN 46312
Gary, Indiana	Gary Public Library	220 W. 5 th Ave., Gary, IN 46402
Griffith, Indiana	Lake County Public Library-Griffith Branch	940 N. Broad St., Griffith, IN 46319
Hammond, Indiana	Hammond Public Library	564 State St., Hammond, IN 46320
Hammond, Indiana	E.B. Hayward Branch Hammond Public Library	1212 172 nd St., Hammond, IN 46320
Hammond, Indiana	Howard Branch Hammond Public Library	7047 Grand Ave., Hammond, IN 46320
Munster, Indiana	Munster Branch Lake County Public Library	8701 Calumet Ave., Munster, IN 46321
Schererville, Indiana	Dyer-Schererville Branch, Lake County Public Library	1001 W. Lincoln Hwy., Schererville, IN 46375
Whiting, Indiana	Whiting Public Library	1735 Oliver St., Whiting, IN 46394

9.5 Request for Comments on Draft EIS

Comments on this Draft EIS may be submitted by mail, by e-filing on the Board's website www.stb.dot.gov, by telephone (1-800-347-0689), or in person at the public meetings. The deadline for comments is September 30, 2008. **All correspondence should refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087.**

Written comments should be mailed to:

Phillis Johnson-Ball
 STB Finance Docket No. 35087
 Surface Transportation Board
 395 E Street SW
 Washington, DC 20423-0001

Environmental comments can be filed electronically on the Board's website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, by clicking on the "E-FILING" link.

Comments will be accepted at the toll-free project information line at 1-800-347-0689 until September 30, 2008. A Spanish-language option is available.

9.6 Public Meetings for the Draft EIS

To present the findings of this Draft EIS and to allow ample opportunity for public comment, eight public meetings are planned throughout the project area as shown in the Table 9.6-1 below:

Table 9.6-1. Public Meeting Dates and Locations		
Date	Location	Address
Monday, August 25	Matteson, Illinois Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center	500 Holiday Plaza Drive Matteson, IL 60443
Tuesday, August 26	Mundelein, Illinois Crowne Plaza Chicago North Shore	510 E. Route 83 Mundelein, IL 60060
Wednesday, August 27	Barrington, Illinois Barrington High School	616 W. Main Street Barrington, IL 60010
Thursday, August 28	Bartlett, Illinois Bartlett High School	701 Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103
Monday, September 8	Chicago, Illinois Loyola University of Chicago	25 E. Pearson Chicago, IL 60611
Tuesday, September 9	Aurora, Illinois West Aurora High School	1201 West New York St. Aurora, IL 60506
Wednesday, September 10	Gary, Indiana Indiana University Northwest	3400 Broadway Gary, IN 46408
Thursday, September 11	Joliet, Illinois Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center	411 S. Larkin Avenue Joliet, IL 60436

The same information will be presented at each meeting and will follow the schedule outlined below:

- Open House – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
 - Staff from the Board and HDR, Inc. will be available to answer questions and help members of the public review project maps and other findings of the Draft EIS and analysis.
- Public Meeting – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
 - Staff from the Board and HDR, Inc. will make a short presentation to the public and will then be available to receive formal comments on the Draft EIS. This portion of the meeting will be held for the purpose of receiving comment. It is not a question-and-answer session.
 - Beginning July 25, 2008, speaker registration will be determined on a first come first serve basis by calling the hotline to pre-register in advance (1-800-347-0689) or at the sign-in tables the day of the public meeting. Each speaker will be allocated up to 3 minutes to present her or his comments.

In addition to formal comments presented at the public meetings, comments may be submitted through the following methods:

Written Comments: Comment forms will be provided at the public meetings and will be accepted on site or by mail; written letters will also be accepted at the public meetings. Additionally, comment forms or written letters can be sent to:

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423
Ref. STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Recorded Comments: Court reporters will be available at the public meetings for those who wish to dictate their comments in a more informal setting. Comments may also be recorded at any time during the comment period on the project hotline: 1-800-347-0689.

Electronic Comments: Submit electronic comments by visiting the STB's website, www.stb.dot.gov, under the heading "E_FILING". Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087.

All comments received will carry equal weight in helping to finalize the EIS and guide the Board in their decision making on this matter. The comment period on the Draft EIS will end on September 30, 2008.

For further information on the proceedings, please visit the project web site at www.stbfinancedocket35087.com or call the toll-free information line at 1-800-347-0689. You may also visit the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov) and look for Key Cases under Environmental Matters.

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