

Joseph Sieger
736 Oak Road
Barrington, IL 60010

January 9, 2008

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Vicky,
Thanks for
chatting with
me!
Joe

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Vicky:

It was my pleasure to meet you this afternoon at the scoping meeting in Barrington, IL.

I appreciate the atmosphere of candor you established when speaking personally to me (e.g., about how you commute to work via bicycle). Thank you for investing your time to listen to me and the rest of the community.

EXOTIC SPECIES INFESTATION and UNCERTAINTY OF COMMUTE were the two primary expansions of scope that we discussed. These and other topics are listed below.

* * *

EXOTIC SPECIES INFESTATION

Emerald Ash Borer Beetles, Asian Longhorned Beetles, and Dutch Elm Disease are three examples of pests currently found in our area that will be spread throughout the US and Canada as a result of the sale of the EJ&E to CN. For example, the EJ&E runs through the quarantines established by the Illinois Department of Agriculture; and there are confirmed infestations on both sides of the EJ&E. (See enclosed maps). The US Department of Agriculture has spent over \$100 million dollars to stop this pest from spreading; and it has concluded that pests are spread by trains¹.

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - PD-35087
Log and Distribution
Date: _____
HDR File No: _____

Please increase the scope of the EIS to include Exotic Species Infestation

Scanned (Initial): _____
STACT #: _____
Cc: Original - Job File

UNCERTAINTY OF COMMUTE

The scope of the draft EIS includes delays, but fails to include the affects from greater uncertainty about delay. For example, sometimes it takes 30 minutes to drive from Barrington to Chicago; other times it takes 2 hours. Because of the uncertainty, commuters often leave 60 to 90 minutes early. Commuters will need to leave even earlier because of the increased uncertainty there will be blocked by a train as a result of the purchase by CN. Importantly, this adverse affect on Quality of Life will occur even if there is no actual train, it is cause by the mere threat of a train delay.

HDR

Barrington commuters who drive to work are used to trains on the Metra tracks. Many drivers who never take the train know the exact schedule of the Metra trains so as to avoid delay. With irregularly scheduled trains on the EJ&E tracks, it becomes impossible for drivers to know when a train will actually occur, so they will leave earlier or drive further to a non-grade level crossing to avoid the possibility of delay.

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The scope of the draft EIS misses the effects of this uncertainty. It only includes the effects of actual train delay.

Please add "Quality of Life" as a category for the EIS and expand the scope of the EIS to include the adverse affect from greater uncertainty there might be a train.

SHIFT AWAY FROM MASS TRANSIT

The current wording of Transportation Systems Category has parts A. through G. But none address the likely decrease in commuters who use busses, Metra train, walk, and fly (O'Hare airport, Palwaukee airport, etc) and the likely increase in commuters who drive in automobiles... all because the increased delay (or risk of delay) in getting from their home to: bus stop, train station, airport, etc. Delays will cause people to miss their flights, bus, train, etc. As a consequence of missing their intended public transportation, they will commute via automobile. For other commuters, the *risk* of delay will cause them to no longer attempt to get to public transportation and simply drive all the way to their destination on a route that avoids a grade level rail crossing.

Please add to the EIS a part "H" as written here: "Require mitigative measures to eliminate the possibility the proposed acquisition will cause less use of busses, commuter rail, walking, and airports due to delay -- or uncertainty about delay -- in crossing the rail tracks."

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. CHANGES IN HEIGHT, LENGTH & SPEED

In order to accommodate the three topics above, the wording of the draft EIS should be changed from:

"The scope of the analysis will include the following types of activities: 1. Anticipated changes in the level of operations on rail lines (e.g., an increase in average trains per day)..."

Please add this wording to the EIS:

"changes in length of trains, changes in speed of trains, changes in height of trains, and changes in country of origin of railcars"

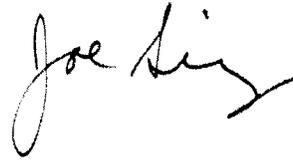
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We appreciate your contribution to our country.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Sieger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joe Sieger

enclosures

1. *Detection of Stored-Grain Insect Infestation in Wheat Transported in Railroad Hopper Cars*, USDA-ARS Grain Marketing and Production Research Center



Division of Natural Resources
Bureau of Environmental Programs

Emerald Ash Borer

USDA Confirmed Emerald Ash Borer Locations

Quarantine Boundaries
 USDA Confirmed Locations
 1/2 mile radius

Map Satellite Hybrid

Options

- Home
- Radio PSAs
- Packet pages
- EAB Poster
- Quarantine Brochure
- Job Postings
- What IDA Is Doing
- News
- Newsletters
- Nuisance Declaration
- Quarantine/Compliance
- Illinois Map
- Reforestation
- FAQs
- What Can You Do?
- Tools U Can Use
- Links
- Contacts
- Contact Us

SOURCE: ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Project

EAB locations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and southwest Ontario, Canada

January 2, 2008

Infested Areas

Map Key

- EAB pos. (EAB locations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and southwest Ontario, Canada)
- ◆ State boundaries
- County boundaries
- Unincorporated areas
- Incorporated areas
- Unincorporated areas

