

Jan, 10, 2008

To: Surface Transportation Board

I want to take this opportunity to express my feelings to the Board regarding the proposed sale of the EJ&E Railroad to the Canadian National Railroad.

My wife and I have lived in our home for over 35 years; moving into the house when our children were infants. Because of our small children, we were reluctant to build the house until we could determine the impact of the EJ&E rail traffic on the quality of our lives and the safety of our children. We researched the situation and determined that the impact was minimal; in fact, we only heard/saw one train every seven days or so. This was a significant consideration in our decision as our property butts-up to the Com Ed easement tract that is adjacent to the railroad tracks. We currently have about 6 trains that pass behind each day. Although it is annoying, we can tolerate the noise and vibration that is generated by the six trains.

The proposed sale of the EJ&E to CN will increase rail traffic to approximately 30 trains per day. In addition, the length of the trains will double, triple, and even quadruple the current length of the EJ&E trains. Furthermore, the horsepower of the engines will increase from 2000 to 4000 horses. The noise and vibration created by these three factors:

1. Number of trains
2. Length of trains
3. Increased power

will make living in our home unbearable. We would never be able to use our backyards, open our windows, listen to any audio entertainment, or even carry a normal conversation. This isn't about the five or ten minute inconveniences at railroad crossings; this represents a major loss to the quality of the lives for us who live along the tracks.

We hope that if the proposed sale is approved some sort of sound barrier could be erected that would eliminate the eventual increase in noise.

Our second concern is vibration. We have repaired a number of cracks to our foundation and walls that we attribute to the vibration cause by speeding and "heavy" trains. In fact, we have had a number of wall decorations fall from the vibrations. It is apparent to us that the slower and "lighter" the trains, the less vibration that is generated.

We hope that if the proposed sale is approved, a speed zone is established that will slow the trains, and conversely, eliminate the vibrations.

Our third concern is the decrease in the value of our home. Without remedies to the noise and vibration problems, our home would be useless and worthless. Who would consider buying a home that was useable only when there was no train traffic.

Thank-you for your attention and any help you can provide.

Surface Transportation Board
 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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Sincerely,

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cc: Village of Frankfort