

# Village of Lake Barrington

23860 Old Barrington Road

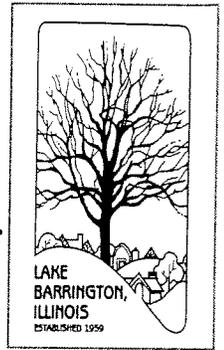
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PRESIDENT  
Kevin C. Richardson

January 7, 2008

TRUSTEES  
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Paul J. Struck  
David B. Raclaw  
John M. Schaller  
Andrew F. Burke  
Jean Vonder Haar

## RE: IMPACT STATEMENT - CN PURCHASE OF EJ&E RAIL LINE

To the Surface Transportation Board;

The Village of Lake Barrington, IL respectfully requests the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to consider the following concerns relative to the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E rail line by the Canadian National Railroad. The Village is concerned over the impact of the anticipated 400% increase in freight traffic upon Lake Barrington, its neighboring communities, and key institutions in the area:

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR  
Christopher A. Martin

➤ Public Safety

Lake Barrington is home to the 183 bed Good Shepherd Hospital which houses a newly-expanded trauma center and a new state-of-the-art and award winning Cardiac Care center. The thousands of regional residents served by the hospital are likely to incur lengthy delays associated with the anticipated 400% increase in freight traffic. This is particularly harmful in cardiac emergency cases where experts note "time equals heart muscle". Ambulances and people attempting to reach the hospital in emergency situations may well find it difficult – if not impossible – to reach Good Shepherd in a timely fashion and may be forced to divert to other health care facilities outside the Barrington area. There is little doubt that such delays may adversely affect patient outcomes in critical situations.

VILLAGE ACCOUNTANT  
Deborah Vernon

VILLAGE CLERK  
Cynthia L. Hoover

TREASURER  
James E. Purcell

➤ Traffic

The eight at-grade crossings within the Barrington area will be severely impacted by the almost constant passing of freight trains. The delays associated with freight train traffic will result in the shut down of several at-grade crossings in the heart of the Barrington region. This will create insurmountable traffic delays and increase non-point source pollution from auto and truck traffic stalled by the increase rail crossing traffic. It will also create untenable delays for school bus transportation, upset school start times, and make access to downtown Barrington virtually impossible.

PERMIT COORDINATOR/  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
Erica A. Rezula

➤ Noise

The addition of a least 20 freight trains through the region will create an untenable noise problem for dozens of homes and businesses near the tracks. While it is understandable that others would like this traffic rerouted to Barrington, it is fair to say that Barrington area residents did not purchase and locate their homes here with the expectation that the CN would increase the freight train load at least fourfold.

➤ Property Values

The creation of a continuous freight train corridor via the addition of some 20 freight trains -- operating 24 hours per day 365 days per year -- will reduce the desirability of homes and businesses throughout the Barrington area, thus depressing property values and negatively impacting our property tax base.

In sum, the Village strongly believes that the addition of 20 freight trains per day will severely and irreparably damage the fabric of the Lake Barrington community and the greater Barrington region. Therefore, we strongly urge the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to take all appropriate steps to assure that all adverse impacts upon the region are fully addressed in its decision.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Richardson  
Village President