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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING ON CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY
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My name is Catherine Quigg and I have lived in Barrington for over forty years in which I have witnessed many changes in our village--but I never thought I would see the day when an outside force would trample our residents, our safety, and our environment to the extent that Canadian National portends.

Okay, so what's the worst that can happen? Gridlock with cars and trucks backed up for miles and no alternative routes? How about an ambulance racing against the clock to Good Shepherd Hospital to save a heart attack patient? Or fire engines trying just to crack the congestion on Northwest Highway to get to a fire in the chem lab at Barrington High School on the west side of town?

Well, they all pale by comparison to the worst. How about the derailment of 22 cars of an 108-car Canadian National freight train carrying hazardous chemicals. Can't happen? Ask the residents of Tamaroa in southern Illinois about their worst day--February 9th, 2003.

That morning, 22 tank cars of a 108-car Canadian National freight train derailed in Tamaroa--spilling their contents on the ground. Tank cars containing hydrochloric acid, vinyl chloride, methanol, and methanol/formaldehyde mixture ruptured during the derailment, spilling their contents onto the ground. Some of the cars containing methanol caught fire. As

a result, more than 1,000 residents, the entire population of Tamaroa, were subjected to mandatory evacuation.

Residents later complained that they had breathed harmful chemicals and that their skin was exposed to these harmful chemicals. Toxic substances polluted and contaminated their food and water supplies. They experienced physical and mental pain and suffering, fear, anguish, and emotional distress. To this day, they are assaulted by this accident, including fear of future adverse medical consequences and dread diseases. They incurred medical expenses, lost wages, and their property has diminished in value as a result of contamination.

Is Barrington prepared for this kind of catastrophe? Chemicals are bad enough but what kind of shipments are we talking about? Tamaroa might be a cakewalk compared to the kind of long-lasting environmental devastation caused by potential derailment of shipments of highly radioactive spent fuel and other lethal nuclear reactor waste.

Does Barrington have the kind of resources to respond to these kinds of accidents? I think not. Let us not go blindly into this bad night.

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