

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
4
5
6
7
8

9 STATEMENT OF:
10 MARK DRENTH
11 JANUARY 16, 2008

12
13
14 ONE GENESIS CENTER
15 GARY, INDIANA
16
17

18 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO
19 Telephone: 312-781-9111
20
21

22 REPORTED BY: Fran Okrei, 84-1074
23
24

1
Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
Log and Distribution
Date Rec'd: _____
HDR File No. _____
Scanned (initial): _____
STA ECT#: _____
Cc: Original Job File

HDR

2

1 MR. DRENTH: I'm Mark Drenth and I live
2 at 1568 Hardstone Court and that's in Dyre,

3 Indiana. My concern about the sale and the
4 purchase of this railroad crossing is that
5 this purchasing affects the area I live and
6 makes it no longer a residential area because
7 the level of train traffic that's been
8 proposed with this purchase would literally
9 destroy this area in terms of making it a
10 pleasant residential area.

11 It definitely would become commercial.
12 It would drive down all the house values in
13 the area. My particular residence was built
14 just over a year ago and it backs up to where
15 the railroad yard is. Currently we have about
16 ten trains that come through daily. This
17 would more than triple and over a period of
18 several years would literally make this an
19 unlivable area for us to be.

20 The other concern is that it affects
21 many other parts of the region. In terms of
22 Route 30 and where I live in the Dyre area, it
23 will exponentially increase the amount of
24 traffic issues.

□

3

1 When you have more trains that congest
2 traffic with railroad crossings down during
3 the peak areas of rush hour, it would just
4 make this even more of a nightmarish
5 situation. It also will take away jobs.

6 Many of the truckers that make their
7 livelihood on transporting goods from one

8 place to another would -- their business would
9 be reduced because of the influence of the
10 railroad and what they would be doing as far
11 as moving things from here to there.

12 It also affects the region as a whole
13 in that the benefit of the railroad is purely
14 profit and it certainly just take away from
15 the wellbeing of the community and the region
16 throughout the areas that it goes through, in
17 particular residential areas.

18 Everything I've read about it does not
19 address this at all. There's no concern about
20 this at all. In terms of intrastate
21 transportation, I understand this is going to
22 have a negative affect on a possible regional
23 airport in the Gary area and the progress of
24 that. That would severely curtail this as

□

4

1 well. So those are my concerns.

2 I don't see much positive here except
3 if you are a businessman and you are in the
4 railroad business and you are out to make
5 money and that's the only thing you care
6 about, that seems to be the only plus.

7 A friend of mine works for the current
8 railroad that works in this area. He's
9 against it because of the benefit package and
10 the pension program that this railroad that
11 would take over the company presents.

12 The only positives seem to be with the

13 new buyers of the railroad and the bottom line
14 of them making more money. Beyond that, there
15 does not seem to be any pluses anywhere in
16 this proposed purchase. That's it.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24