



BARRINGTON-INVERNESS POLICE DEPARTMENT

00 337.010908 . LAWLER. LOCL.60010. O.N.CF

January 9, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I understand that Canadian National Railway Company plans to buy the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company. I have been informed that, as a result of this transaction, at least 15 new freight trains will travel through the Barrington, Illinois area each day. According to some, the increase will be much larger than that, and the final number is completely unpredictable. Such an increase will require a great deal of examination to assure that the traffic flow and safety concerns of my Department are met.

I am the Chief of Police for the Village of Barrington which also provides police for the Village of Inverness with a total population of over 17,000. My force has 34 officers serving this population as well as the Village of Inverness southeast of Barrington. I have been in this position for over ten years.

Because of the geographical location of the EJ&E line, the area my Department protects will become bifurcated. This makes it inevitable that there will be delays in responding to any emergency 911 calls due to blocked railroad crossings that are at grade level throughout the region. Our closest grade separation to the north would be in another community, Lake Zurich, 5.8 miles from the center of the Village of Barrington. An emergency call from the center of Barrington to the north end of our Village via the Lake Zurich underpass would entail a 9.7 mile trip for an emergency responder. Our closest grade separation to the south is in the Village of Barrington Hills, 4 miles from the center of the Village of Barrington. An emergency response to Barrington High School from the center of Barrington via the south overpass of the EJ&E would entail an 8.6 mile trip. The lack of grade separation will guarantee that first responders will often be untimely in their emergency response, to the detriment of those needing emergency services. Our consultant indicates that rail crossings could be blocked up to 16 hours per day in the future, if the Canadian National Railroad is able to maximize the use of the EJ&E. Thus, there is a greater probability than not that emergency responders will be stopped by trains when responding to emergencies. This is unacceptable to me professionally and to those needing our help and should be a priority area of study by the Surface Transportation Board.

Additionally, traffic flow is a major concern of mine as the EJ&E crosses our area's three major arterial roadways and a busy commuter rail line. We expect that traffic gridlock will become a routine and daily problem given the enormous increased volume of freight traffic on the line. Unfortunately, I have seen all too often what can occur in terms of human nature when people become impatient at being delayed at a rail crossing. They take risks to beat trains with unfortunate consequences to their own and others' safety.

Finally, we would expect that people will begin to use alternative ways to circumvent freight-induced gridlock by traveling through residential areas that are not equipped to handle commuter traffic. I am concerned about how this could endanger the children who live and play freely in these neighborhoods.

VILLAGE HALL
200 S. HOUGH ST.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
(847) 304-3400

**PRESIDENT & BOARD
MANAGER'S OFFICE**
TEL (847) 304-3444
FAX (847) 304-3490

FINANCIAL SERVICES
TEL (847) 304-3400
FAX (847) 381-7506

BUILDING & PLANNING
TEL (847) 304-3460
FAX (847) 381-1056

PUBLIC WORKS
300 N. RAYMOND AVE.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
TEL (847) 381-7903
FAX (847) 382-3030

PUBLIC SAFETY
400 N. NORTHWEST HWY.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010

POLICE
TEL (847) 304-3300
FAX (847) 381-2165

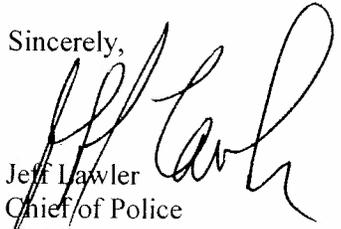
FIRE
TEL (847) 304-3600
FAX (847) 381-1889



BARRINGTON-INVERNESS POLICE DEPARTMENT

From my experience as Chief of Police, I understand that the federal government must consider all significant environmental impacts of its decisions, and issue a statement with alternatives and conditions before proceeding. I am certain that an extra 15 trains, each taking somewhere around five minutes to pass through the area, constitutes a significant impact on this region. I assume, therefore, that you will issue such a statement, which will give myself and others an opportunity to review the true environmental impacts of this transaction. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board in this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lawler
Chief of Police
Village of Barrington

VILLAGE HALL
200 S. HOUGH ST.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
(847) 304-3400

**PRESIDENT & BOARD
MANAGER'S OFFICE**
TEL (847) 304-3444
FAX (847) 304-3490

FINANCIAL SERVICES
TEL (847) 304-3400
FAX (847) 381-7506

BUILDING & PLANNING
TEL (847) 304-3460
FAX (847) 381-1056

PUBLIC WORKS
300 N. RAYMOND AVE.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
TEL (847) 381-7903
FAX (847) 382-3030

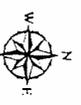
PUBLIC SAFETY
400 N. NORTHWEST HWY.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010

POLICE
TEL (847) 304-3300
FAX (847) 381-2165

FIRE
TEL (847) 304-3600
FAX (847) 381-1889

Legend

- Interstate
- Major Road
- CTA Station
- Main Station
- Airport
- Local Distribution Area



VISION
2020

