

January 8, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Sir or Madam,

As concerned citizens of Barrington Illinois, we urge you to conduct a complete review of the Canadian National Railway Company's acquisition of EJ & E Rail Road. A total Environmental Impact Statement must be conducted.

As residents of the Flint Creek subdivision in Barrington, our family lives 50 yards from the train tracks. We, and all of our neighbors cross these tracks multiple times each day. Hundreds of children cross the tracks to go to the local park and library, both of which are ADJACENT TO THE TRACKS. This is an immediate danger to all of these young lives!

This region is ill suited for the volume freight traffic that will ensue. A 6,000 foot train would effectively dissect the village of Barrington and cut off the Flint Creek, Jewel Park, Steeple Chase and Chippendale subdivisions from emergency services. This is not just a matter of traffic congestion, but rather, hundreds of families would not have immediate emergency assistance if a freight train were blocking the Lake Zurich Rd, Route 14 and Lake Cook Road intersections at one time. Lives will be endangered when residents do not receive timely emergency assistance.

The current EJ & E RR tracks diagonally cut through the entire town. Increased freight volume is not acceptable. School children ages K-High School will be put at increased risk. EVERY CHILD in Barrington crosses the tracks AT LEAST 2 times per day to get to their respective schools. The local Barrington bus company estimates their buses cross the tracks over 400 times per day! This will increase accidents, injuries and fatalities.

As a concerned resident I urge you to truly evaluate the serious safety impact this acquisition poses to this community.

Based on the potential acquisition of the EJ & E railroad by Canadian National, we have the following concerns and questions:

1. Are the tracks going to be doubled or tripled? If so, where?
2. What are the projections on numbers of trains per day? Who will monitor and enforce this limit?
3. What will the volume be during various times per day?
4. What will be done about the poor safety record of CN in reference to derailments & spills?
5. What is the response plan by EMS, Fire & Police in the event all crossings are blocked by a train?
6. What will the vibrations do to the structure of my house, which is only 50 yards from the train?
7. Will there be sound walls?
8. What will be done to make access to our public park & library safe for children?

9. What will the impact be to air quality?
10. What is the plan in the event of a spill or emissions?
11. What has happened to the value of homes in similar situations?
12. What has happened to insurance rates of homes in similar situations?
13. Are you looking at alternate routes for the trains?

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary & John Bergquist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary and John Bergquist
655 Bent Ridge Lane
Barrington, IL 60010