



CN | EJ&E

Environmental Impact Statement

Final Environmental Impact Statement

for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company

Location: The EJ&E freight rail line is an approximately 200-mile long railroad located in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana that forms an arc around Chicago extending from Waukegan, Illinois to Gary, Indiana; and from Gary northwest to Chicago along Lake Michigan.

Abstract: On October 30, 2007, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation ("CN" or the "Applicants") filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) seeking the Board's approval to acquire control of the EJ&E West Company, which today is a wholly owned non-carrier subsidiary of Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). The Applicants have proposed acquiring control of the EJ&E Rail Company to use EJ&E's rail line to connect all five of CN's rail lines in the Chicago, Illinois metropolitan area. Rail traffic on CN rail lines inside the EJ&E arc would generally decrease, and the number of trains operating on the EJ&E main line outside Chicago would increase by approximately 15 to 24 trains per day. In January 2008, Public Open House Meetings were held following the Board's announcement that they would conduct an environmental impact study (EIS). More than 5,000 comments were received during this period. These comments were incorporated by the Board to help determine the Final Scope of Study. The Draft EIS was released for public comment on July 25, 2008 and analyzed the environmental impacts to the human and natural environment that might occur if the Applicants were to acquire and operate trains over the EJ&E Railroad. The Board then held a series of Public Meetings that took place across the Chicago region in August and September. During the 60-day comment period, the Board received over 9,500 comment letters from the public and resource agencies that identified nearly 55,000 issues. The Final EIS contains new analysis and corrections to the Draft EIS in addition to SEA's responses to comments received from the public. The Applicant's voluntary mitigation and SEA's final mitigation recommendations are also presented in the Final EIS.

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