

## Chapter 5

# Outreach and Coordination

Chapter 5 provides information on SEA's public outreach activities, which were designed to encourage broad participation in the environmental review process. SEA invited interested members of the public, Federal, state, and local agencies, Federally recognized tribes, elected officials, low-income and minority populations, and potentially affected communities to participate by reviewing and commenting on the Draft Scope of Study and the Draft EIS. Public and agency comments allowed SEA to assess public concerns and issues and to determine the extent to which additional environmental analysis and mitigation measures were necessary in preparing the Final EIS.

### 5.1 Role of SEA and Its Independent Third-Party Contractors

SEA prepared this EIS to ensure that the Proposed Action complies with the regulatory requirements under NEPA, the Board's environmental regulations, and the applicable rules and regulations. SEA is responsible for conducting the environmental review of the Proposed Action on behalf of the Board. In preparing the EIS, SEA identified issues and areas of potential environmental impact of the Proposed Action and alternatives, reviewed agency and public comments, and analyzed and documented the anticipated impacts on the environment.

In conducting extensive environmental reviews, SEA typically encourages applicants to engage independent third-party contractors to assist SEA with environmental analyses and preparation of environmental documents. The use of agency-approved, independent third-party contractors is specifically permitted by both the Board's environmental regulations and those of CEQ (49 CFR 1105.10[d]; 40 CFR 1506.5[c]).

SEA supervises the third-party contractors' scope of work, approach, and activities in all Board proceedings. The contractors are, in effect, an extension of SEA staff. They work under SEA's direction to conduct independent environmental analysis; develop appropriate environmental methodologies, documentation, and mitigation options; and verify the environmental information provided by the Applicants, consulting agencies, and other interested parties. SEA's oversight of the third-party contractors' work is exclusive and extensive.

Having reviewed all of the public comments received on the Draft EIS, conducted additional environmental analysis, reviewed all other environmental information provided, and consulted with appropriate commenters and agencies, SEA prepared this Final EIS with the assistance of its third-party contractor. SEA's involvement, oversight, guidance, and participation in the preparation of the EIS has been exclusive and extensive.

### 5.2 Scoping Public Involvement and Outreach

SEA conducted an extensive outreach program to engage the public, agencies, and stakeholders. SEA invited interested members of the public, communities, and organizations to participate in the scoping process by reviewing and commenting on the Draft Scope of the EIS. In addition, SEA conducted targeted outreach activities to minority and low-income populations to engage them in the environmental review process. Appendix A of the Draft EIS, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials,

presents the public participation materials that SEA developed and used to inform the public and government agencies about the Proposed Action and its potential environmental effects.

### **5.2.1 Scoping Process**

During the scoping process, SEA informed the public about the Proposed Action, described the environmental review's purpose and process, and gathered public comments on the Draft Scope of the EIS. SEA's public involvement efforts in the scoping process are described below and include public notices, media outreach, announcement posters, an environmental distribution list, a website, public scoping meetings, Federal Register notices, a toll-free project information line, an electronic filing system for receiving comments, an extension of the comment period, and project update mailings. This discussion also includes data on meeting attendance and other scoping participation.

#### **5.2.1.1 Public Notices**

The Board published the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Federal Register on December 21, 2007, announcing the start of the scoping process and the dates and times of public meetings (FR 2007a). The Board published the Notice of Availability of the Final Scope of Study for the EIS in the Federal Register on April 28, 2008 (FR 2008).

The Board issued a press release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS on July 25, 2008, and EPA published a notice in the Federal Register announcing Draft EIS availability for review and comment on August 1, 2008.

#### **5.2.1.2 Media Outreach**

The Board issued four media releases on December 12 and 27, 2007, January 7, 2008, and July 25, 2008. To advertise the scoping meetings, public notices and quarter-page advertisements were placed in the following 27 Chicago-area newspapers (25 in Illinois and two in Indiana) during the weeks of December 27, 2007, and January 7, 2008:

- Barrington Courier-Review
- Batavia/Geneva/St. Charles Republican (three newspapers)
- Beacon News (Aurora)
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune
- Courier News (Elgin)
- Downers Grove Reporter/Westmont Progress (two newspapers)
- Glen Ellyn News/Wheaton Leader (two newspapers)
- Grayslake Journal
- Herald News (Joliet)
- Lake Forester (Lake Forest)
- Lemont Reporter
- Naperville Sun
- News-Sun (Waukegan)
- Northwest Herald (McHenry County)
- Post-Tribune (Merrillville, Indiana)
- Regional News (Palos Heights)
- Southtown Star (Tinley Park, formerly the Daily Southtown)

- Times (Northwest Indiana)
- Warrenville-West Chicago-Winfield Press (three newspapers)
- Wauconda Journal

On July 25, 2008 the Board issued a press release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS.

### ***5.2.1.3 Announcement Posters***

SEA placed posters announcing the public scoping meetings in 38 public libraries and one village hall, which together serve 49 communities along the EJ&E rail system.

### ***5.2.1.4 Environmental Distribution List***

SEA maintained an environmental distribution list composed of individuals that have expressed an interest in the Proposed Action, local elected officials, and state and Federal agencies. SEA sent letters announcing the public scoping meetings to the approximately 350 individuals on the list as of December 28, 2008. SEA continued to update the environmental distribution list as individuals submitted environmental comments and if individuals requested to be added. The list grew to more than 30,000 contacts at the time of the release of this Final EIS.

### ***5.2.1.5 Website***

The Board maintained a website, available at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Along with general information about the Board and SEA, the website provides information specific to this Proposed Action and all environmental correspondence from the Applicants, Federal, state and local agencies, interested parties, and the general public.

To assist the public in accessing information related to the Proposed Action, SEA has developed a specific website to provide information on the environmental review. The website is available at <http://www.stbfinancedocket35087.com>. The website provides a project overview; public comment information; links to documents including the NOI, Draft Scope and Final Scope of the EIS, information requests from SEA to CN and responses to these information requests; links to the Board, CN, and EJ&E websites; and SEA contact information.

### ***5.2.1.6 Public Scoping Meetings***

SEA held 14 public scoping meetings at seven locations throughout the Chicago metropolitan area in January 2008. The meetings were held in an open-house format. Two meetings were held per location, one from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and one from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meetings were held:

- January 8, 2008: Mundelein, Illinois
- January 9, 2008: Barrington, Illinois
- January 10, 2008: Joliet, Illinois
- January 15, 2008: Matteson, Illinois
- January 16, 2008: Gary, Indiana
- January 17, 2008: West Chicago, Illinois
- January 22, 2008: Chicago, Illinois

SEA contacted 301 local elected officials to notify them of these scoping meetings. At these meetings, 2,612 people signed the attendance sheets and 1,347 individuals provided oral and written comments. SEA received an additional 1,268 written comments by mail during the scoping period.

### **5.2.1.7 Project Information Line**

SEA set up a toll-free project information line (1-800-347-0689) for public comments for the duration of the environmental review. A Spanish-language option was available (see Appendix A of the Draft EIS, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials). The project information line received 219 individual comments during scoping.

### **5.2.1.8 Electronic Filing System**

Commenters provided 858 individual comments during scoping using the Board's electronic filing system (<http://www.stb.dot.gov>).

### **5.2.1.9 Comment Period Extension**

In response to comments from the public, SEA extended the scoping comment period from February 1 to February 15, 2008. To advertise the extension, the Board mailed 3,038 postcards to those on the environmental distribution list and sent 47 letters to Federal and state agencies during the week of January 28, 2008, SEA reissued its media release to the aforementioned 27 Chicago-area newspapers and sent 302 e-mails and faxes to elected officials, including congressmen and local officials, to inform them of the extension.

### **5.2.1.10 Project Update Mailings**

SEA mailed approximately 5,000 project update postcards to those on the environmental distribution list on February 25, 2008, and mailed 20 project update letters to senators and congressmen during the week of March 10, 2008.

## **5.2.2 Targeted Outreach Activities to Minority and Low-Income Populations**

Consistent with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, SEA placed special focus on outreach activities to minority and low-income populations to ensure that all parties had meaningful involvement in the environmental review process and that their issues and concerns are fully considered (FR 1994). Therefore, SEA created a strategy for targeted outreach to minority and low-income stakeholders (see Appendix A of the Draft EIS, Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials).

SEA identified 28 communities with minority and low-income populations potentially affected by the Proposed Action. The Illinois communities identified are Aurora, Bolingbrook, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Crest Hill, Elgin, Fairmont, Hoffman Estates, Joliet, Lynwood, Matteson, Mundelein, North Chicago, Park Forest, Richton Park, Rockdale, Romeoville, Sauk Village, South Barrington, Vernon Hills, Warrenville, Waukegan, and West Chicago. The Indiana communities are East Chicago, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, and Whiting.

SEA then conducted targeted and specific outreach efforts to ensure that these communities had, and continue to have, access to information on the Proposed Action and the opportunity to fully participate in the environmental review process, including direct calls to elected officials regarding the environmental review process, public scoping meetings, and meetings with local representatives. SEA initiated this outreach during the scoping phase, and it will continue throughout the environmental review process.

### **5.2.2.1 Direct Calls**

SEA contacted elected officials who represent minority and low-income populations to remind them of the upcoming scoping meetings and to ensure that each representative had a copy of the NOI. SEA placed calls to aides of U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (Illinois), Illinois State Representative

William Davis (District 30), Illinois State Representative Al Riley (District 38), Illinois State Representative Fred Crespo (District 44), and Illinois State Representative Linda Chapa La Via (District 83).

**5.2.2.2 Meetings with Local Representatives**

SEA held 24 meetings with community representatives, church representatives, or state senators or representatives either on location or via telephone (see Table 5.5-1 in Section 5.5, below, for a list of dates and participants). When meeting with a state senator or representative, SEA worked with the elected official to identify key community representatives, including representatives of minority and low-income populations, who were not previously contacted. At the meetings, SEA distributed education materials on the Proposed Action, as well as Board contact information for questions about the process. In addition, SEA provided Spanish-language translators as needed.

**5.3 Agency Coordination**

SEA invited agencies with jurisdiction, expertise, or interest in the Proposed Action to participate in the environmental review process. The agencies identified in the following section were asked to help identify potential environmental issues and concerns within the Study Area. Their comments helped SEA determine what level of environmental analysis was warranted for the Proposed Action. In addition to consultations with Federal, state, and local agencies with interest or jurisdiction in the Proposed Action, SEA has also cooperated with staff from Congressional offices, concerned citizens, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and others, describing the environmental review process, the Board's licensing role, the decision-making process, and responding to questions.

During the environmental review process, SEA worked closely with Federal agencies that have jurisdiction and expertise in railroad operations. This section discusses the agencies that are typically most involved in the Board proceedings, describes the other agencies and groups with which SEA has consulted during the environmental review process in this proceeding to date, and summarizes the agency scoping and stakeholder meetings.

**5.3.1 Federal Agencies**

Under 40 CFR 1503.2, “Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved and agencies which are authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards shall comment on statements within their jurisdiction, expertise, or authority.” Thus, Federal agencies shall review and comment on an EIS for a Proposed Action within their jurisdiction and area of expertise. An agency may reply that it has no comment on the EIS. Table 5.3-1 below identifies the key Federal agencies that are participating in the environmental review process.

<b>Table 5.3-1. Federal Agencies</b>	
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Agency Jurisdiction or Area of Expertise</b>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District	Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 CFR 1344), USACE has jurisdiction over activities that result in the discharge of dredge or fill material into U.S. waters, including lakes, rivers, streams, oxbows, ponds, and wetlands. Activities that affect these systems require a permit from USACE.
U.S. Coast Guard, Eighth District	Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 401) requires approval of the location of, and plans for, bridges over navigable waters of the U.S. before construction begins. This requirement is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Agency Jurisdiction or Area of Expertise</b>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis, Region 5, and Office of Federal Activities	EPA oversees and implements Federal environmental laws. EPA also provides guidance on compliance with certain Executive Orders that involve environmental considerations. Under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7609), EPA reviews and comments on the environmental impacts of major Federal actions for which an EIS is prepared under NEPA. EPA's Office of Federal Activities, which is responsible for reviewing the EIS, evaluates the quality of analysis in the EIS and the extent of the proposal's impact on the environment.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Midwest Region Office, Chicago Field Office, and the Northern Indiana Ecological Services Sub-Office	USFWS implements the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under Section 7 of the ESA (16 USC 1536), USFWS reviews Federal agency actions and expected impacts to threatened or endangered species. USFWS can issue a determination, in the form of a biological opinion, which details the expected impacts to threatened or endangered species. The Board is responsible for initiating Section 7 consultation with USFWS.
U.S. Department of Energy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab)	Fermilab provides leadership and resources for qualified researchers to conduct basic research at the frontiers of high-energy physics and related disciplines.

## 5.4 DEIS Public Involvement and Outreach

The public involvement process for the review of the Draft EIS was similar to that for the scoping process. Consistent with SEA's outreach activities designed for scoping the Draft EIS, SEA outreach activities included public notices, media outreach in English and Spanish, direct mail, a website, a bilingual toll-free project information line, an electronic filing system for receiving comments, and eight public meetings held throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

### 5.4.1.1 Public Notices and Media Outreach for the Draft EIS

On July 25, 2008, the Board issued the Draft EIS and a press release to regional media outlets announcing the availability of the Draft EIS. The press release distribution consisted of mainstream media outlets and those outlets targeting minority and low-income populations identified in the Study Area. Additionally, the press release was sent to 94 print publications for consideration in their community calendars. Public notices were printed in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times*. Advertisements for the public meetings were printed in 19 area newspapers, including six which were part of SEA's environmental justice outreach. A table listing all media organization outreach is included in Appendix B.3 of this Final EIS. Table 5.4-1, below, shows the dates and the name of the publication in which notices were published.

<b>Table 5.4-1 Notice Dates and Publications</b>	
<b>August 13, 2008</b>	<b>August 27, 2008</b>
Daily Herald - Cook County	Chicago Crusader*
Daily Herald-Lake County	Chicago Defender*
Grayslake Journal	Citizen Newspapers*
Northwest Herald	Extra*
Pioneer Press-Northwest/Arlington Heights	Hoy!*
Pioneer Press-West	La Raza*
Examiner Publications, Inc.	Post-Tribune
	The Aurora Beacon News
	The Courier-News
	Daily Southtown (Tinley Park)
	The Southtown Star
	The Times

Note:

\*Indicates newspapers serving minority and low-income populations.

**5.4.1.2          Announcement Posters for the Draft EIS**

SEA placed posters announcing the eight Draft EIS public meetings in 53 public libraries, 53 city halls, and 47 chambers of commerce in the Chicago metropolitan area. A copy of the poster can be found in this Final EIS, Appendix B.3.

**5.4.1.3          Website**

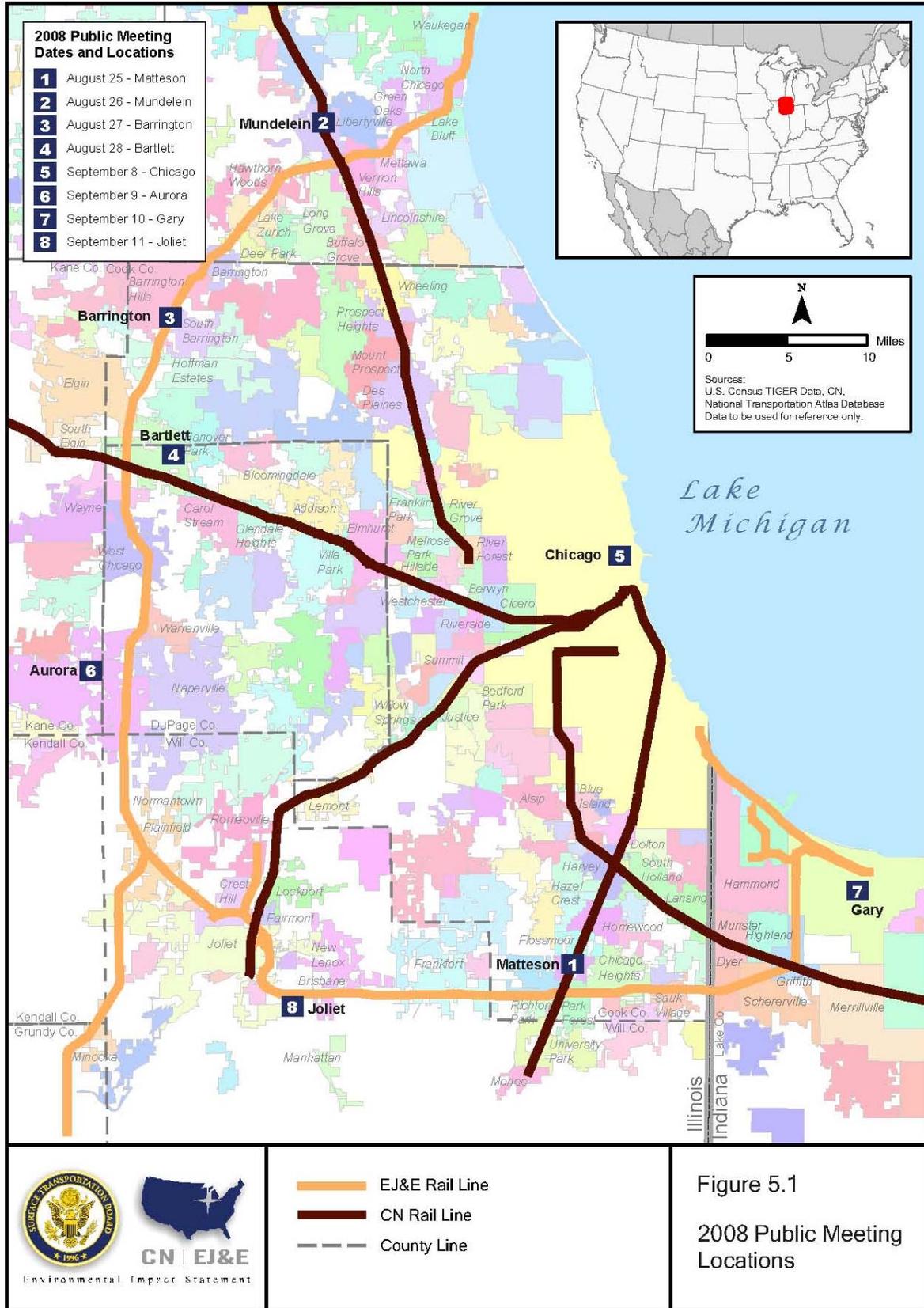
The SEA project website (<http://www.stbfinancedocket35087.com>) remains active. The website provides important project information including:

- Project background
- SEA’s environmental review schedule
- Public involvement opportunities and project contact information
- Correspondence between SEA and the Applicants
- Published documents including the Scope of Study, Draft EIS, and Final EIS
- Transcripts of the public meetings for the Draft EIS
- Current news and project information
- Frequently Asked Questions

Website content at key stages of the environmental review process is provided in Appendix B.3 of this Final EIS. Since its launch in January 2008, the website has had over 7,000 individual visitors. The most activity occurred in conjunction with the Draft EIS public meetings and comment period, with 5,300 individual visitors from July through September 2008.

**5.4.1.4          Public Meetings on the Draft EIS**

SEA held eight public meetings in August and September 2008 and offered a registration process for oral comment opportunities at these meetings. Each meeting consisted of an open house that began at 4:00 p.m. and concluded at 9:00 p.m., with a formal public meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. Figure 5-1, below, shows where meetings were held in relation to the rail lines.



The public meetings were attended by 4,645 people and 305 people provided oral comments. Meeting attendees received a *Public Meeting Guide* which included a mailing list registration form and other information on the environmental review process. More than 1,500 mailing list registration forms were filled out and submitted to SEA at these meetings.

Concerns raised by the public at the meetings included: traffic delays and congestion; emergency response; mitigation funding; communities and community cohesion; hazardous materials transport; vehicle safety; noise; economics and employment; number, frequency, and length of trains; and property values. The public was invited to make comments in one of the following ways: privately with a court reporter, publicly at the microphone, in writing via the preprinted comment forms provided by SEA, through SEA’s website, on the toll-free project hotline, or by writing a letter.

During the formal public meetings, SEA and its third party contractor, HDR Engineering, Inc., delivered a brief presentation on SEA’s environmental review process and an overview of the Draft EIS findings. Oral comment sessions for approximately 300 attendees who wished to publicly voice their opinions followed. A combination of elected officials, organization representatives, advocacy groups, and private citizens spoke at each of the meetings. Transcripts from the public meetings are contained in Appendices D-1 through D-8 of this Final EIS.

SEA retained a Spanish translator and several court reporters to transcribe oral comments and was prepared to provide a sign-language interpreter for the hearing impaired on request. All public meeting materials and Draft EIS Executive Summaries were translated into Spanish; comment forms were also provided in Polish, Russian, and Chinese. Examples of the comment form can be found in Appendix B.3 of this Final EIS, Public Outreach Materials.

The public meetings were attended by 4,645 people and 305 people provided comments (see Table 5.4-2, below).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Approximate # of Attendees</b>	<b># of Speakers</b>
Monday, August 25, 2008	Matteson, Illinois Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center	350	33
Tuesday, August 26, 2008	Mundelein, Illinois Crowne Plaza Chicago North Shore	200	35
Wednesday, August 27, 2008	Barrington, Illinois Barrington High School	3,000	69
Thursday, August 28, 2008	Bartlett, Illinois Bartlett High School	250	38
Monday, September 8, 2008	Chicago, Illinois Loyola University of Chicago	75	21
Tuesday, September 9, 2008	Aurora, Illinois West Aurora High School	420	55
Wednesday, September 10, 2008	Gary, Indiana Indiana University Northwest	100	19
Thursday, September 11, 2008	Joliet, Illinois Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center	250	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,645 Attendees</b>	<b>305 Speakers</b>

**5.4.1.5 Project Information Hotline**

SEA maintained a bilingual toll-free project information hotline (1-800-347-0689) throughout the development of the Draft EIS. The hotline provided timely information including upcoming public involvement opportunities. Prior to and during the Draft EIS public meetings, interested persons could pre-register to speak at the meeting of their choice using the hotline. A total of 2,214 calls were received during the comment period, including 254 callers who registered to speak at the public meetings and 906 who submitted oral comments on the Draft EIS. The information hotline will remain in place for 30 days after the Final EIS is published.

**5.4.1.6 Electronic Filing System**

Commenters provided 1,620 individual comments on the Draft EIS using the Board’s electronic filing system (<http://www.stb.dot.gov>) during the formal Draft EIS comment period.

**5.4.1.7 Draft EIS Comment Period**

EPA published the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register on August 1, 2008. The Notice of Availability also included information about the Draft EIS comment period, as well as the dates, times, and locations of public meetings. A copy of the notice is in this Final EIS, Appendix B.3.

The Draft EIS was distributed to Federal, state, and locally-elected officials, as well as members of the public who participated in the scoping process or requested a copy. In addition, it was housed in the reference section of 52 regional public libraries and in one village hall within the Study Area.

SEA established a 60-day comment period and encouraged verbal, electronic, and written submittal of comments, provided multiple comment submission methods, and stressed that all comments would receive equal weight in the Board’s decision making on this matter. Table 5.4-3, below, provides an overview of how the public used each comment method throughout the environmental review process.

	<b>Draft EIS Comment Period</b>	<b>Scoping Comment Period</b>	<b>Total</b>
Electronic Filing on Board’s Website	1,620	858	2,478
Toll-Free Project Hotline	912	485	1,397
Spoken Formally at Public Meeting	305	NA	305
Transcribed by Court Reporter at Public Meeting	309	140	449
Letter, Comment Form, or Petition	6,384	2,475	8,859
<b>Total Comments Received</b>	<b>9,530</b>	<b>3,958</b>	<b>13,488</b>

At the close of the comment period, 9,530 comments were received on the Draft EIS. Approximately 18,000 individuals signed petitions, including nearly 6,000 in support of and 12,000 in opposition to the Proposed Action. The full text of all comments can be found on the Board’s website: [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), under E-Library; Correspondence; Environmental. Comments are also available on CD-ROM in this Final EIS, Appendix F. Comment summaries and SEA’s responses are in Chapter 3 of this Final EIS.

**5.4.1.8 Project Update Mailings**

On July 30, 2008, a misprint of two meeting dates in the Draft EIS prompted SEA to mail approximately 5,440 postcards with corrected information to those on the environmental distribution list. A copy of the postcard can be found in Appendix B.3 of this Final EIS.

**5.4.1.9 Public Briefing for Board Members**

The Board held a public meeting on November 18, 2008, at its Washington, D.C. headquarters, to discuss the analysis and preliminary conclusions and recommendations in the Final EIS. SEA briefed the Board on the major issues raised in comments on the Draft EIS and how SEA proposed to address them in the Final EIS. Topics discussed including rail operations, rail safety, hazardous materials, transportation, noise and vibration, biological resources, water resources, mitigation and how it should be funded, and quality of life issues. SEA also briefed the Board on the extensive public outreach that was conducted for the Proposed Action. Following SEA’s presentations, the Board questioned SEA staff on various issues. The meeting was open for public observation, but not public participation. The public meeting was at the Board’s headquarters at Patriots Plaza, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. A video broadcast of the hearing was accessible to all interested parties, including those in the Chicago area, via the website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, under "Information Center"/"Webcast"/"Live Video" on the home page.

**5.5 Minority and Low-Income Outreach**

SEA continued its outreach to minority and low-income populations throughout the entire environmental review process. Of the 28 minority and low-income populations identified during scoping, 13 of these communities have significant minority or low-income populations in the Study Area and SEA compiled a list of 109 community leaders, elected officials, and church leaders in those areas. SEA made phone calls to arrange one-on-one meetings with these individuals. SEA also mailed an informational letter and fact sheet which outlined the Proposed Action. Follow-up calls were made once the mailing had gone out. SEA visited each of the 13 communities to meet with specific individuals and community leaders to identify issues.

Twenty-four meetings took place (see Table 5.5-1, below) during which SEA distributed materials, including fact sheets, and discussed and listened to community concerns. In addition, copies of the Draft EIS were distributed at one meeting. Also, SEA provided a Spanish version of the information in identified Hispanic communities.

<b>Table 5.5-1 Minority and Low-Income Outreach</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Name/Organization</b>
April 18, 2008	Elgin	Sen. Michael Noland
April 18, 2008	Lemont	Sen. Christine Radogno
April 21, 2008	Elgin	Rep. Ruth Munson
April 22, 2008	Gary, IN	(Pastor) Rev. R.T. Mitchell
April 22, 2008	Mokena	Rep. Renee Kosel
April 24, 2008	Buffalo Grove	Sen. Bill Peterson
April 29, 2008	Crest Hill	Mayor Nick Churnovic
April 29, 2008	Joliet	Fr. Raymond Corkery, Our Lady of Mount Carmel
April 29, 2008	Mundelein	Rep. Kathy Ryg
May 5, 2008	Aurora	Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia
May 8, 2008	Park Forest	Tom Mick, Village Manager
May 12, 2008	Matteson	James Bragg, Director of Development, New Faith International Church

<b>Table 5.5-1 Minority and Low-Income Outreach</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Name/Organization</b>
May 13, 2008	Chicago Heights	Frank Perez, Executive Administrator Michael Sobo, Director of Projects and Services
May 28, 2008	Joliet	Pastor Roberto Flores, Asamblea Apostolica
June 2, 2008	Plainfield	Rep. Tom Cross
June 2, 2008	Plainfield	Sen. Linda Holmes
June 2, 2008	Aurora	Mayor Tom Weisner
June 3, 2008	Aurora	Arthur Velasquez, President, LULAC #5218
June 10, 2008	Elgin	Jamie Garcia, Director Centro de Informacion
July 9, 2008	Park Forest	First Baptist Church of Park Forest
July 9, 2008	Joliet	NAACP
July 11, 2008	Chicago Heights	Frank Gonzalez, Latino Relations Committee
July 11, 2008	Aurora	Fr. Roberto Camacho, Sacred Heart Catholic Church
August 6, 2008	Chicago Heights	Fr. John, St. Agnes Church

## 5.6 Agency and Elected Official Outreach

SEA notified 20 Congressional members, 31 State of Illinois elected officials, and 10 State of Indiana elected officials of the public meetings and opportunities to comment. SEA consulted with agencies in the Chicago metropolitan area by letter, telephone, and meeting to coordinate issues, collect data, and provide information. Through its interaction with those agencies, SEA gathered data and information about the Chicago metropolitan area and related planning efforts.

SEA mailed copies of the Draft EIS to Federal, state, and local public agencies with a cover letter encouraging recipients to submit environmental comments for consideration in preparing the Final EIS. These agencies included:

- Federal agencies
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Coast Guard
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U. S. Department of Energy
  - U.S. Department of Transportation
- Federally-identified Tribal Groups
  - Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin
  - Hannahville Indian Community Council
  - Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
  - Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
  - Miami Nation of Indians of the State of Indiana
  - Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
  - Potawatomi Nation
  - Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation
- State of Illinois agencies
  - Illinois Commerce Commission Transportation Bureau, Rail Safety Section
  - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
  - Illinois Department of Transportation, District 1

- Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation, Bureau of Railroads
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
- State of Illinois, Office of the Governor
- State of Indiana agencies
  - Indiana Department of Environmental Management
  - Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
  - Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program
  - Indiana Department of Transportation
  - State of Indiana, Office of the Governor
- Illinois county governments
  - Cook
  - DuPage
  - Grundy
  - Kane
  - Kendall
  - Lake
  - Will
- Indiana county government
  - Lake
- Regional governments
  - Barrington Area Council of Governments
  - DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference
  - Lake County Council of Mayors
  - Northwest Municipal Conference
  - Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
  - South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
  - Will County Governmental League
- Forest preserve districts
  - Cook County
  - DuPage County
  - Lake County
  - Will County
- Other groups
  - Amtrak
  - Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
  - Gary/Chicago International Airport
  - Metra
  - Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
  - Pace

- Regional Transportation Authority
- Environmental Law and Policy Center
- Save the Dunes Council

### 5.6.1 Local Governments

On June 25, 2008, SEA attended a Metropolitan Mayors Conference meeting with 27 leaders from the Chicago metropolitan area. An attendance list can be found in Appendix B.3 of this Final EIS. SEA made a brief presentation that included background on the Board, SEA’s environmental review process, NEPA guidelines, and the Applicants’ stated Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action. Handouts and display materials included a project map, fact sheets, Final Scope of Study, and display materials from the scoping meetings held in January.

As a result of stakeholder group coordination held during the formal Draft EIS comment period, the West Central Municipal Conference and Northwest Municipal Council requested additional comment forms and copies of the *Public Meeting Guide*.

On September 30, 2008, HDR Engineering, Inc., SEA’s third-party contractor, attended a meeting of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, a group of stakeholders representing cities on the south side of Chicago. They answered general questions regarding the revised connection at Matteson, Illinois. Materials distributed included a project map, Frequently Asked Questions, and Scoping Guidelines.

### 5.6.2 Stakeholder Meetings

To provide agencies a greater role in the development of the Draft EIS, SEA established five stakeholder groups composed of agencies in Illinois and Indiana. During the comment period on the Draft Scope of Study, participants with similar concerns were given the opportunity to participate in stakeholder group meetings to facilitate discussion. In similar fashion, five stakeholder meetings organized by common interest took place during the Draft EIS comment period the week of September 1, 2008. SEA established the following five stakeholder groups:

- Illinois Natural Resources/Water Resources Agencies
- Illinois Transportation/Safety Agencies
- Illinois Local Governments
- Northern Indiana Agencies/Governments
- Indiana State Agencies

SEA invited 74 agencies to attend the meetings and provide feedback in their areas of expertise. A total of 31 agencies participated. There were 11 natural and water resources representatives, 14 Illinois transportation and safety representatives, seven Illinois local government agencies, 17 northern Indiana agencies or governments, and four Indiana state agencies in attendance. Meetings were held in Chicago, Illinois, and Hammond and Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting schedule and attendees are listed in

**Table 5.6-1 Stakeholder Meetings: Schedule and Participants**

<b>Table 5.6-1 Stakeholder Meetings: Schedule and Participants</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group Focus Area</b>	<b>Agency in Attendance</b>
April 29, 2008	Illinois Natural Resources/	Barrington Area Council of Governments Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

<b>Table 5.6-1 Stakeholder Meetings: Schedule and Participants</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group Focus Area</b>	<b>Agency in Attendance</b>
	Water Resources Agencies	Forest Preserve District of Cook County Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Forest Preserve District of Will County Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Region 2 Lake County Forest Preserve District U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois
April 29, 2008	Illinois Transportation/Safety Agencies	Amtrak Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning DuPage County, Division of Transportation Environmental Law & Policy Center Illinois Department of Transportation, District 1 Lake County, Illinois, Division of Transportation Metra Pace Regional Transportation Authority U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 Will County, Department of Highways
April 30, 2008	Illinois Local Governments	Barrington Area Council of Governments Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference Northwest Municipal Conference South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association Village of Barrington Village of Barrington Hills West Central Municipal Conference
April 30, 2008	Northern Indiana Agencies/Governments	City of Gary, City Engineer City of Gary, Deputy Mayor City of Gary, Law Department Gary/Chicago International Airport Izaak Walton League Lake County (Indiana) Commissioners Lake County Manager Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Town of Dyer Town of Griffith Town of Highland Town of Merrillville Town of Munster Town of Schererville United Transportation Union #740 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana U.S. Representative Visclosky's Office
May 1, 2008	Indiana State Agencies	Indiana Department of Natural Resources Indiana Department of Transportation, Chief Legal Counsel Indiana Department of Transportation, Chief of Staff Indiana Department of Transportation, Office of Rail State of Indiana, Office of the Governor

Table 5.6-1 Stakeholder Meetings: Schedule and Participants		
Date	Stakeholder Group Focus Area	Agency in Attendance
September 2, 2008	Illinois Natural Resources/ Water Resources Agencies	Norm West (EPA) John Oldenburg (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County) Maggie Zoellner (Lake County Forest Preserve District) Wayne Vanderploeg (Forest Preserve District of Cook County) Maggie Cole (Illinois DNR, Region 2) Sally Arnold (Dept of Energy - Fermi Site Office) Ron Abrant (US Corps of Engineers)
September 2, 2008	Illinois Transportation/ Safety Agencies	Sid Weseman (RTA) Stan Milewski (ICC) Brian Vercruysse (ICC) Jack Bauer (Metra) Bruce Christensen (Lake County Division of Transportation) Paula Trigg (Lake County Division of Transportation) Don Kopec (CMAP) Patti Killingier (Will County Department of Highway) Kevin Brubaker (Environmental Law and Policy Center)
September 3, 2008	IL Local Governments	Janet Agnoletti (Barrington Area COG) Len Cannata (West Central Municipal Conference) Neil James (West Central Municipal Conference) Tammy Wierciak (West Central Municipal Conference) Kama Dobbs (DMMC) Andrew Hawkins (Forest Preserve District of Will County) Chris Staron (Northwest Municipal Conference) Reggie Greenwood (South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association) Mike Walczak (Northwest Municipal Conference)
September 3, 2008	Northern Indiana Agencies/Governments	Robert Rybicki (Town of Dyer) Elizabeth Johnson (Congressman Visclosky Representative) George Jerome (Town of Griffith) Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS) Tom Post (INDNR) John Paxsons (NICTD) Jackie Anders (NIRPC) Christopher Meyers (City of Gary) Leibil (RDA) Bob Volkman (City of Schererville) Susan Severtson (City of Gary) Gerri Tousant (City of Gary) Erik Potter (Post-Tribune)
September 4, 2008	Indiana State Agencies	Indiana Department of Natural Resources

SEA used stakeholder comments to identify issues needing further environmental review. Issues discussed included CN's voluntary mitigation measures and SEA's recommended mitigation measures. During these meetings, SEA provided stakeholders with the *Public Meeting Guide* and an electronic copy of the Draft EIS upon request. Printed copies of the Draft EIS were available for review. On October 8, 2008, SEA conducted a follow-up meeting with the Illinois Commerce

Commission to review Industry tracks and Signalized Intersections. These issues are discussed in Sections 2.5.10 and 4.2.2.3 of this Final EIS.

### 5.6.3 Coordination on Species of Concern

SEA met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Chicago, Illinois, Field Office (CIFO) and USFWS Northern Indiana Ecological Services Sub-Office (NIESS) on October 23, 2008, to discuss concerns raised in the Department of Interior comment letter dated September 29, 2008. Specifically, the discussion focused on the Hine’s emerald dragonfly, Karner blue butterfly, Indiana bat, Eastern prairie fringed orchid, turtle crossings, and noise effects on migratory birds. SEA met with USFWS, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and INDNR in October and November 2008, to resolve concerns regarding the Eastern prairie fringed orchid, Hine’s emerald dragonfly, Karner blue butterfly, and the dune and swale prairie remnant in Kirk Yard in Gary, Indiana. Section 2.12 of this Final EIS discusses the status of the informal consultation with the USFWS.

## 5.7 Distribution of the Final EIS

More than 30,000 individuals are on the Environmental Distribution List. SEA will distribute the Final EIS, either in hard copy or CD-ROM format, to individuals who provided mailing addresses in four different distribution categories. The public can review printed copies of this Final EIS at the libraries and village hall indicated in Table 5.7-1 below:

<b>Table 5.7-1 Locations to Review the Final EIS</b>		
<b>Community</b>	<b>Public Library or Village Hall</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>Illinois (alphabetical listing)</b>		
Aurora, Illinois	Aurora Public Library	233 S. Constitution Dr., Aurora, IL 60506
Barrington, Barrington Hills, and South Barrington, Illinois	Barrington Area Library	505 N. Northwest Hwy., Barrington, IL 60010
Bartlett, Illinois	Bartlett Public Library	800 S. Bartlett Rd., Bartlett, IL 60103
Blue Island, Illinois	Blue Island Public Library	2300 York St., Blue Island, IL 60406
Bolingbrook, Illinois	Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook	300 W. Briarcliff Rd., Bolingbrook, IL 60440
Buffalo Grove, Illinois	Indian Trails Public Library	355 Schoenbeck Rd., Wheeling, IL 60090
Carbondale, Illinois	Carbondale Public Library	405 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL 62901
Centralia, Illinois	Centralia Public Library	515 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801
Champaign, Illinois	Champaign Public Library	200 W. Green St., Champaign, IL 61820
Chicago, Illinois	Harold Washington Library Center	400 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60605
Chicago Heights, Illinois	Chicago Heights Public Library	25 W. 15 <sup>th</sup> St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Crest Hill, Illinois	Crest Hill Public Library	1298 Theodore St., Crest Hill, IL 60403
Crystal Lawns, Fairmont, and Joliet, Illinois	Joliet Public Library	150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432
Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich, Long Grove, and Mettawa, Illinois	Ela Area Public Library	275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Elgin, Illinois	Gail Borden Public Library	270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
Frankfort, Illinois	Frankfort Public Library	Pfeiffer Rd. at Rt. 30, Frankfort, IL 60423
Glen Ellyn, Illinois	Glen Ellyn Public Library	400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Green Oaks and Libertyville,	Cook Park Public Library	413 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville,

**Table 5.7-1 Locations to Review the Final EIS**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Public Library or Village Hall</b>	<b>Address</b>
Illinois		IL 60048
Hoffman Estates, Illinois	Hoffman Estates Branch Library	1550 Hassell Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
Indian Creek and Vernon Hills, Illinois	Vernon Hills Village Hall	290 Evergreen Dr., Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Lake Bluff, Illinois	Lake Bluff Public Library	123 E. Scranton Ave., Lake Bluff, IL 60044
Lockport, Illinois	Lockport Public Library	121 E. 8 <sup>th</sup> St., Lockport, IL 60441
Lynwood, Illinois	South Cook ISC 4 Library	253 W. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Matteson, Illinois	Matteson Public Library	801 S. School Ave., Matteson, IL 60443
Minooka, Illinois	Three Rivers Public Library- Minooka Branch	109 N. Wabena Ave., Minooka, IL 60447
Mokena, Illinois	Mokena Public Library	11327 W. 195 <sup>th</sup> St., Mokena, IL 60448
Mundelein, Illinois	Fremont Public Library	1170 N. Midlothian Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060
Naperville, Illinois	95 <sup>th</sup> Street Library	3015 Cedar Glade Dr., Naperville, IL 60564
Naperville, Illinois	Naper Boulevard Library	2035 S. Naper Blvd., Naperville, IL 60565
Naperville, Illinois	Nichols Library	200 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville, IL 60540
New Lenox, Illinois	New Lenox Public Library	120 Veterans Pkwy., New Lenox, IL 60451
North Chicago, Illinois	North Chicago Public Library	2100 Argonne Dr., North Chicago, IL 60064
Park Forest, Illinois	Park Forest Public Library	400 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, IL 60466
Plainfield, Illinois	Plainfield Public Library	15025 S. Illinois St., Plainfield, IL 60544
Richton Park, Illinois	Richton Park Public Library	4045 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Rockdale, Illinois	Will County Law Library	14 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432
Romeoville, Illinois	Fountaindale Public Library in Romeoville	201 Normantown Rd., Romeoville, IL 60446
Sauk Village, Illinois	McConathy Public Library	21737 Jeffrey Ave., Sauk Village, IL 60411
Warrenville, Illinois	Warrenville Public Library	28W751 Stafford Pl., Warrenville, IL 60555
Waukegan, Illinois	Waukegan Public Library	128 N. County St., Waukegan, IL 60085
Wayne, Illinois	St. Charles Public Library	1 S. 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174
West Chicago, Illinois	West Chicago Public Library	118 W. Washington St., West Chicago, IL 60185
Wheaton, Illinois	Wheaton Public Library	225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187
<b>Indiana (alphabetical listing)</b>		
East Chicago, Indiana	Robert A. Pastrick Branch Library	1008 W. Chicago Ave., East Chicago, IN 46312
Gary, Indiana	Gary Public Library	220 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Gary, IN 46402
Griffith, Indiana	Lake County Public Library-Griffith	940 N. Broad St., Griffith, IN 46319

<b>Community</b>	<b>Public Library or Village Hall</b>	<b>Address</b>
	Branch	
Hammond, Indiana	Hammond Public Library	564 State St., Hammond, IN 46320
Hammond, Indiana	E.B. Hayward Branch Hammond Public Library	1212 172 <sup>nd</sup> St., Hammond, IN 46320
Hammond, Indiana	Howard Branch Hammond Public Library	7047 Grand Ave., Hammond, IN 46320
Munster, Indiana	Munster Branch Lake County Public Library	8701 Calumet Ave., Munster, IN 46321
Schererville, Indiana	Dyer-Schererville Branch, Lake County Public Library	1001 W. Lincoln Hwy., Schererville, IN 46375
Whiting, Indiana	Whiting Public Library	1735 Oliver St., Whiting, IN 46394

## 5.8 Next Steps

SEA anticipates that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register on December 12, 2008. Under the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1506.10(b)), agencies must wait 30 days from EPA’s Federal Register notice before issuing a final decision unless they have an internal appeal process. The Board has such a process, which means that the Board could issue a final decision in less than 30 days from December 12, 2008. If the Board were to do so, SEA recommends that the Board’s administrative review period be extended to permit parties to seek agency reconsideration of the final decision within 30 days after it is served, rather than the typical 20 days. The Board would consider any administrative appeals in a subsequent decision.

## 5.9 Public Notification Activities

Table 5.9-1 below provides a chronological listing of notification activities for this environmental review.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
November 26, 2007	SEA served Decision No. 2 accepting for consideration the Application filed by Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation on October 30, 2007
November 29, 2007	SEA published the Notice of Acceptance of Primary Application in the Federal Register
December 12, 2007	SEA published a press release issuing guidance on project participation (Reissued January 7, 2008)
December 21, 2007	SEA published a Notice of Intent and the Draft Scope of Study in the Federal Register
December 23, 2007	SEA activated a toll-free 800 hotline with project information including an option to record comments and update mailing information
December 27, 2007	SEA announced the scoping comment period and open house public meetings in 27 Chicago-area newspapers (Republished January 7, 2008), 350 letters to stakeholders, and 41 letter to federal, state, and local agencies
January 2008	SEA held seven public open house meetings in the Chicago metropolitan area with project materials in both English and Spanish available
January 8, 2008	SEA established a project website with project information
January 25, 2008	SEA served Decision No. 4 denying requests to reclassify the transaction as “significant” and to alter the procedural schedule issued in Decision No. 2
January 30 - February 2, 2008	SEA served Decision No. 6 announcing the extension of the scoping period from February 1st to February 15, 2008 in the Federal Register. SEA publicized the extension of the scoping comment period through postcards to 3,038 persons, published notices in

**Table 5.9-1. Public Notification Activities**

Date	Activity
	27 Chicago-area newspapers, e-mails, and faxes to 302 elected officials, and updates to the website and project hotline
February 25 - March 10, 2008	SEA mailed postcards to 4,907 persons, 24 agencies, and 20 elected officials acknowledging the receipt of comments and participation in the scoping process
April 10, 2008	SEA invited 38 agencies to participate in agency stakeholder meetings
April 18, 2008	SEA began outreach to low-income and minority communities including telephone calls, emails, letters, and meetings
April 25, 2008	SEA served a decision announcing the Notice of Availability of the Final Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Statement
April 28, 2008	SEA published an addendum to the Final Scope of Study in the Federal Register and mailed the Final Scope of Study, the Addendum to the Final Scope of Study, and a return postcard requesting review preferences for the Draft EIS to individuals on the environmental distribution list. Additionally, SEA updated the website and hotline with information about the Final Scope of Study
May 5, 2008	SEA updated the project website to include all correspondence to and from the Applicants
June 25, 2008	SEA attended a Metropolitan Mayors Conference meeting attended by 27 leaders from the Chicago metropolitan area
July 24, 2008	SEA served Decision No. 13 granting the Applicants' request for the establishment of time limits for the remaining NEPA review and issuance of the final decision and adopted a schedule as set forth in the decision
July 25, 2008	SEA issued a press release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS to Chicago-area publications and updated the website and hotline accordingly
July 30, 2008	SEA mailed 5,440 postcards correcting information regarding misprinted meeting date information included in the Draft EIS
August 1, 2008	EPA published the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register
August 2008	SEA distributed the Draft EIS to 5,692 persons in the environmental distribution list, placed English and Spanish language announcement posters in 52 public libraries and one village hall, published a public notice of the upcoming meetings in the <i>Chicago Sun Times</i> and <i>Chicago Tribune</i> newspapers, notified 20 Congressional members, 31 State of Illinois elected officials, and 10 State of Indiana elected officials of the upcoming public meetings and published public invitation to Draft EIS public meetings in 19 Chicago-area newspapers
August 2008 - September 2008	SEA hosted eight public meetings in the Chicago metropolitan area with project materials in both English and Spanish available
September 2008	SEA invited 74 stakeholders to participate in agency stakeholder meetings
September 8, 2008	SEA served Decision No. 14 denying the Applicants' petition to modify the procedural schedule to allow CN to take control of EJ&E before issuance of the Final EIS and subsequent Board consideration of the potential environmental impacts
November 18, 2008	SEA briefed the Board at a public meeting at its Washington, D.C. headquarters, to discuss the analysis, preliminary conclusions, and recommendations in the Final EIS.
December 5, 2008	SEA issued a press release announcing the availability of the Final EIS to Chicago-area publications, posted the Final EIS on the website as well as distributed it to persons on the final Environmental Distribution List. SEA also updated the hotline accordingly.
December 12, 2008	EPA published the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register.