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February 12, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq., Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 -

Dear Honorable Anne Quinlan:

I am writing to express concern over CN's acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago. It is my understanding that CN plans to operate15-27 additional trains through this suburban area as well as construct six new rail connections and approximately 19 miles of new sidings / double track. The negative impacts to the communities located along this proposed route are substantial. My concerns include the following:

- Noise and Vibration - There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville. Audible warning system bells would be a near constant in this area with crossings at 111th street and 103rd street. With the school's proximity to the tracks, as well as its location between two crossings, the number of trains crossing throughout the school day would create noise and vibration levels that would clearly disrupt concentration.
- Traffic - In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area, if we assume an additional 25 freight trains with each taking 5 minutes to pass, this would account for more than 2 hours wait time, in a 24 hour period, at crossings. The delays caused by the freight trains will have a detrimental impact on land uses, the ability to transport students to and from school in a safe and timely fashion, and the ability for emergency response vehicles to cross.
- Air quality - For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day, indeed, the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality in a nonattainment area.
- Safety - The increased rail traffic will have many negative safety impacts including:
    - Increase in at-grade crossing accident probability.
    - Increase in transport of hazardous materials and potential for derailment.

I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition; I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Therese A. Carrigan
3212 Tussell St.
Naperville, IL 60564

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CN-EJ&E FD-35087
✓
Cc: Original - Job File
HDR