

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN NATIONAL  
2 RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE  
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY  
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10 STATEMENT OF:

11 ALAN MacNICOL  
12

13 September 9, 2008  
14

15 WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL  
16 1201 WEST NEW YORK STREET  
17 AURORA, ILLINOIS

18 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO  
19 Telephone: 312-781-9111

20 REPORTED BY: Janice Koczek, 084-002871  
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1 MR. ALAN MacNICOL: I am Alan  
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2 MacNicol. I'm president of the Barrington  
3 Ridge Homeowners Association of Aurora,  
4 Illinois, and a concerned parent of a  
5 student at Homestead Elementary School.

6 My family, my neighbors and my  
7 community all have concerns with the  
8 potential approval of the sale of EJ&E  
9 Railroad to Canadian National.

10 The overall transaction and the  
11 requisite environmental mitigation is  
12 grossly inappropriate as it's proposed.

13 When the cost of the business  
14 transaction is \$300 million and the  
15 supporting requirements to reduce the  
16 approximated impacts is near \$2 billion,  
17 the majority of which is to be paid by the  
18 local impacted communities, there is  
19 something wrong with the equation.

20 My city of Aurora would be  
21 better served to purchase the railroad  
22 itself rather than pay for the related  
23 mitigation fees.

24 The community -- pardon me, the

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1 communities throughout this area that will  
2 be affected by the transaction are not  
3 likely able to fund and engineer, staff and  
4 execute the mitigation efforts without

5 significant hardships and cuts of other  
6 vital strategic community projects.

7 When the evaluation of the  
8 impacts is complete, the financial  
9 obligations will be somewhat different than  
10 originally presented in these draft  
11 versions of the EIS.

12 Even now, those costs are in  
13 excess of the tolerable levels that might  
14 exist, let alone the cost of items that  
15 were overlooked in the study will increase  
16 the costs even more.

17 In addition to these costs of  
18 the mitigation, the safety and the  
19 operation of traffic will still be greatly  
20 compromised by these proposed changes in  
21 the railroad operations.

22 The CN safety record in Canada  
23 is horrendous and has not been considered  
24 in the DEIS.

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1 I request the Board to consider  
2 all available safety information from both  
3 sides of the border. The record will speak  
4 for itself.

5 CN is not operating with safety  
6 as one of its highest priorities. With my  
7 son's elementary school within a quarter  
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8 mile of the railroad and one of its  
9 crossing, this safety record impacts me  
10 whether the record comes from one side of  
11 the border or the another.

12 I cannot foresee any  
13 opportunities that this transaction will  
14 improve traffic in the communities such as  
15 the city of Chicago, nor the outlining  
16 suburbs that will be added to the existing  
17 list of victims.

18 As rail traffic is reduced in  
19 Chicago, it will be replaced with other  
20 traffic on the same lines.

21 The expansion of Canadian  
22 shipping ports will also contribute  
23 directly to the CN's specific levels of  
24 freight shipping, and no end is in site.

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1 The solution for CN and for rail  
2 traffic in general is not the Band-Aid  
3 acquisition of EJ&E.

4 The facts do not add up. The  
5 costs do not add up. Please deny the  
6 request for the approval of this action.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (End of statement.)  
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