

14447

Rail Customer and Public Assistance

Submitted 09/19/2008 03:25:00 PM

Issue Type: *

- ☐ New US Railroad Issue
☒ Feedback

First Name: *

Tim

Middle Name:

Last Name: *

Hack

Company:

Position:

Phone Number: * 815-230-9255

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Commodity:

Region: *

- ☒ Midwest
☐ Northeast
☐ South
☐ West

Issues:

- ☒ Rail Service
☐ Rate Level/Increases
☐ Car Supply
☐ Demurrage Charges
☐ Fuel Surcharge
☐ Information Request
☐ Other

Railroads Involved:

EJ&E Purchase by Canadian National Railway Corporation

Location of Problem:

Plainfield and surrounding communities

Name of Industry at Location:

Serving Rail Carrier at Location:

Dates Problem Occurred:

Future

Comments:

The proposed purchase of EJ&E rail line by the Canadian National Railway Corporation (CN) would pose major problems for the citizens of Plainfield and surrounding communities. As Plainfield has grown and will continue to grow, added trains along that rail line will cause major traffic problems. Most businesses in Plainfield and Aurora are located to the East of the Rail Line while many residents are on the West side of the tracks. This poses a problem for consumers and workers attempting to get to stores or schools or home. Longer freight trains have the added problem of blocking off multiple crossings at once, for long periods of time, causing further delays and accident potentials. Many rail crossings already cause traffic to back up into intersections. If the proposed increase in traffic from 16 trains per day to 42 trains per day and longer trains is correct, we can expect a higher possibility for accidents and loss of life at these locations. At present, if trains run evenly spaced all day and night, there would be an average of 1 train every hour and a half (shorter trains too). If you allow CN this acquisition, there would be approximately one train every half hour (and longer delays for each train). Another problem is the location of emergency response teams (Fire stations, police stations and ambulances) in relation to the rail line and homes or businesses. Most of the fire departments are located East of the tracks. The police department is located just west of the tracks. Large quantities of trains blocking multiple intersections all day long would cause logistical nightmares for emergency vehicles attempting to save lives and will cause loss of life due to fires, heart attacks, car accidents, etc. Major highways are located East of the rail line and many residents are located West of the line as mentioned above. This would cause further delays to these highways. It

would also cause delays with commuter trains on or crossing the same lines. It would cause increase in fuel usage by the public and businesses forcing vehicles to sit idling waiting for an excessive number of trains to pass. There seems to be no good reason to allow CN to go through with this plan without major reconstruction and re-engineering (paid by them) of the rail line and it's roadway crossings. This it seems would outway any savings they're expecting by bypassing Chicago. Alternate routes further away from populated areas should be looked at first. Please do the right thing and deny them this acquisition.

Please take the time to watch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiuXhEKPBo>

Permission given to contact the rail carrier(s)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Type 1 CommTypeFB

Open
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