

10487

Other Submissions

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Docket #: FD -35087 - -

Subject: * Proposed Canadian National Purchase of the EJ&E RR
First Name: * John
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Email Address: * jmikew@comcast.net
Group/Affiliation: * Plainfield Resident
Message: I have reviewed the Draft EIS for this proposal. I cannot support this proposal due its impact on the affected communities.

If this proposal is approved, then CN will move its train much of its train traffic to the EJ&E Line. As a result, every community along that line will be adversely impacted in a myriad of ways. More to it, the benefit of less traffic realized by communities currently impacted on the rail lines closer to Chicago will be likely be temporary. CN and other rail carriers will surely build rail traffic back to its maximum potential on these rail lines. CN and other carriers must commit to not increasing rail traffic along these lines once CN moves its business to the EJ&E.

Additionally, many new subdivisions have built up along the EJ&E Line. Property owners in these communities will be dramatically and unduly harmed by lowered property values as a result of this proposal - should it be approved. If this proposal is approved, CN should be responsible for the negative impact of their increased rail traffic. Further, CN should be responsible for noise mitigation efforts in all areas where housing is currently located within one quarter mile of the rail bed. Whistle-free zones should be approved for these areas as well.

Finally, the traffic mitigation plans in the Draft EIS are completely insufficient. The wait times at surface crossings will be substantially greater than suggested for those who routinely cross this rail line. Adding a handful of elevated crossings along the full length of the EJ&E will not resolve the resulting traffic congestion problems for the vast majority of residents in these communities. CN should be responsible for adding no fewer than 25 elevated crossings to mitigate traffic congestion due to increased train frequency and longer trains.

In summary, and simply stated, this proposal is going to bring many of the communities along the EJ&E to their knees. Plainfield, in particular, will be irreparably harmed by this proposal; all in the name of a big financial payoff for CN.