

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

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STATEMENT OF:

7

DAVID K. RYCKMAN

8

AUGUST 27, 2008

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BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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616 WEST MAIN STREET

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BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

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MR. RYCKMAN: Name is David K.
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2 Ryckman, R-y-c-k-m-a-n, Barrington Hills,
3 Illinois. My comments are based on the
4 newsletter we got from the Barrington
5 Township Office where they listed about ten
6 or twelve points here about the EIS draft.
7 I'm taking on a couple of them here.

8 The first thing the EIS draft,
9 what they say on this thing here, is the
10 total number of train accidents on EJ&E is
11 projected to increase by 28 percent. Now,
12 this doesn't make sense. The increase in
13 exposure to train/car accidents is far
14 greater than 28 percent. If the projected
15 number of trains increases from 5 per day
16 to 20 per day, that's a 300 percent
17 exposure increase. Accidents will also
18 more than likely increase accordingly.

19 Second point is the residential
20 value of properties will likely decrease
21 for homes within 300 feet of EJ&E. Now,
22 there's 5,280 feet in a mile, and they
23 usually say there's eight blocks per mile,
24 so that means a block would be 660 feet;

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1 and they're only talking about 300 feet,
2 which is less than half a block, okay.

3 The increase in train length
4 what I read is about 7,800 feet or almost a
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5 mile and a half will have an increased
6 impact on the length of traffic backup on
7 both sides of the grade crossing. These
8 backups will in turn Affect neighborhoods
9 much further than 300 feet. Frustrated
10 drivers attempting to get across the
11 stopped traffic lines will resort to
12 zigzagging through side streets exposing
13 those neighborhoods to children, bicycle,
14 pedestrian-type accidents. These secondary
15 train length accidents will also result in
16 decreased property values.

17 Now, the rest of MY comments are
18 based on what I read on the CN website. CN
19 website states that every year there are
20 3,300 collisions resulting in 400
21 fatalities in North America; and they,
22 they, CN, are attempting to reduce these
23 numbers. My questions are: What exactly,
24 what steps have we taken -- have they

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1 taken? And two, wouldn't the EJ&E
2 circumstances increase these numbers?

3 My second point about the CN
4 website is CN has requested revised -- let
5 me start over.

6 The CN request for revised
7 procedures is an insult to the intelligence of

8 the communities involved and to the STB. If
9 they were on the up and up, they would be asking
10 the seller, U.S. Steel, for a time extension and
11 not trying to tamper with the federal review
12 process. Furthermore, the message I see on the
13 CN website clearly implies that this is a done
14 deal.

15 (End of statement.)
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