

My name is Joe Messer. I'm a member of the Village of B. H. Plan Commission and a resident at 21 Ostroline in B. H.

There are over 21 Major areas in which the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is flawed. Due to time constraints I will focus on only 3 of those areas:

1. The Vehicular Gridlock Analysis is flawed.

The DEIS utilized a flawed Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Count. Many communities have conducted their own ADT counts, and they are much higher than those in the DEIS. Further, the train lengths and speeds in the DEIS are flat out wrong! The reality is that high ADTs, longer + slower trains will cause gridlock that is much worse than projected in the DEIS.

2. The Mitigation ^{Promises} Options in the DEIS are Empty.

The DEIS states that only 15 crossings will require mitigation. This is a huge understatement! But even if true, based on an ~~aster~~ Mitigation cost estimate of \$35 mil. per crossing, the cost to mitigate 15 crossings would be \$525 mil.! The DEIS contemplates that CN would pay only a fraction of this cost, leaving up to \$500 mil. uncaccounted for. There is no state, federal or local money to pay for this. The mitigation won't happen. It's an empty promise.

3. The Life + Death First Responder Analysis is flawed.

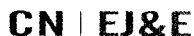
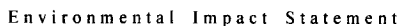
The DEIS reports as "not substantially impacted" communities with EMS facilities on both sides of the tracks. This is ridiculous! These facilities were never designed or staffed in contemplation of any significant traffic on the E3 + E.

Worse, the DEIS states:

"response to the actual scene of an emergency is the most critical action, not the transport to the emergency medical facility"

How ridiculous is that? Since when ~~has~~ has the STB become an expert in emergency medicine. I'm sure that whoever wrote that would change their tune if they were lying in an ambulance idling at a blocked railroad crossing immediately after having had ~~experienced~~ a heart attack or stroke.

Please, lets have an accurate Environmental Impact Statement. If we do, this transaction will not go forward.



Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Date: _____

Comments must be submitted by September 30, 2008.

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Name:

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Please check the public meeting you attended:

Bartlett

Joliet