

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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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 ANDREA EVENSEN

11 JANUARY 17, 2008
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14 ST. ANDREWS GOLF CLUB

15 3 N 441 ROUTE 59

16 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
17

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Date Recd. _____

HDR File No. ☒ _____

Scanner (initial): _____

STAFF: _____

Cc. Original Job File

19 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

20 Telephone: 312-781-9111
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23 REPORTED BY: Fran Okrei, 84-1074 HDR
24

1 MRS. EVENSEN: My name is Andrea
2 Evensen. I reside at 1013 Biltmore Drive in
3 Elgin, Illinois. That's in the Castle Creek
4 Subdivision that's along just west of Villa
5 Olivia.

6 I have a number of concerns with
7 the -- with CN taking over the EJ&E Railroad,
8 some of which I'll briefly outline now. One
9 of my main concerns is involving safety not
10 just in the matter of the types of materials
11 the line will be carrying but also in light of
12 getting emergency vehicles crossing that train
13 line due to the increased amount of traffic
14 that it will be carrying there.

15 With respect to the hazardous
16 materials, when I just spoke to the CN
17 representative by the name of Jim Kuedaras
18 K-U-E-D-A-R-A-S, he was unable to answer our
19 questions with respect to how many gallons of
20 hazardous waste has been dumped -- has been
21 dumped in the past.

22 He did cite that they have a pretty
23 good safety record but wasn't able to comment
24 on the types of waste or materials that have

1 been dumped, and how the communities around
2 the surrounding area were able to fare after
3 that, after a spill had occurred.

4 We purchased our house recently in
5 this neighborhood under the belief that we
6 have about five freight trains coming through
7 that railroad daily. Moving it up to 22
8 railroad trains going through daily,
9 especially because some of those trains are
10 going to be carrying hazardous materials is
11 definitely a huge safety concern for me and as
12 I imagine some of my neighbors.

13 It's not just the materials that they
14 are going to be carrying that concerns me.
15 I'm also concerned about emergency
16 transportation systems being able to
17 effectively move across the lines. With 22
18 trains or 24 trains going through a day, you
19 are looking at about one train every hour.

20 CN has told us that that will cause a
21 delay of anywhere from three to four minutes
22 on each crossing. Recently, the west side of
23 Bartlett is going to be receiving services
24 from a fire station that is being put on the

1 east side of the tracks.

2 In the event somebody -- in the event
3 they need to make -- need to service the west
4 side of the tracks, the response time is
5 obviously going to be impacted based on the
6 train traffic that will likely be moving
7 through there throughout the day.

8 We are also -- I'm also concerned
9 about traffic, not just in the fact that EMS
10 services are going to have a harder time
11 making the crossings but also people trying to
12 get to schools, trying to get to work daily
13 are also going to be impacted by this.

14 It's not just a small impact. It's
15 not just people having to deal with occasional
16 freight lines there either that's an
17 occasional inconvenience. It's every single
18 day, every single hour of every single day
19 which is far worse than just an occasional
20 inconvenience.

21 I'm concerned about the noise that the
22 trains are going to be creating as well as
23 pollution not just in the waste they are going
24 to be carrying and the materials they are

1 carrying but just the -- the pollution that
2 trains in and of themselves create.

3 I'm concerned about the grade
4 crossings. I understand that from Joliet
5 going north, the majority of the grade
6 crossings are street level grade crossings.

7 And we've spoken to CN today and CN
8 wasn't able to give us any idea as to how they
9 were going to deal with the street level grade
10 crossing as opposed to have overpasses to
11 allow cars and emergency vehicles to travel
12 back and forth.

13 I'm extremely concerned about the home
14 values in the area. When I spoke with an STB
15 representative by the name of Phyllis Johnson,
16 she had stated that the STB does not look at
17 home values and they don't consider
18 depreciation of home values.

19 I bought in the community that as I
20 stated earlier, had minimal train traffic and
21 now we are going to have a huge amount of
22 train traffic carrying hazardous materials.
23 That's obviously going to impact the value of
24 my home.

1 I think this is something the STB
2 should be looking at and paying significant
3 attention to. This isn't a situation where
4 you had homes built in an underlying -- in
5 already existing -- in already existing train
6 tracks that already had a huge amount of
7 traffic moving through it already.

8 We bought in a community that had very
9 few trains in and out and to have the amount
10 of trains almost up by five times a day, which
11 is going to impact the property values.

12 I'm concerned about the proposed Star
13 Line. I understand that Metra was going to be
14 using the EJ&E tracks to run a north-south
15 commuter railroad in order to connect a number
16 of their east-west lines going to Chicago.

17 I've seen in the newspapers and I've
18 heard from talking to other people that CN
19 wasn't going to be willing to share their EJ&E
20 track line with Metra and instead will require
21 Metra to build some tracks parallel to them.

22 It's just going to cause more train
23 traffic if we have additional tracks next to
24 the current EJ&E line.

1 That includes my most significant
2 concerns at this time. Obviously after having
3 this meeting I'll have to go home and digest
4 some of the information I've been given.

5 I strongly encourage the STB and their
6 consultant company to take a good look at this
7 and to look at how this is going to negatively
8 impact the communities that reside along the
9 EJ&E line and respectfully request that this
10 petition be denied and the CN not be allowed
11 to take over the EJ&E line.

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