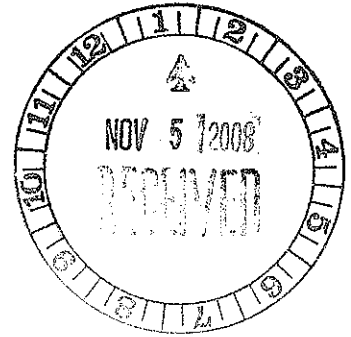




October 28, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Madam:

My name is Dan Michels. I am a resident of Griffith Indiana. I am writing concerning the acquisition of the EJ & E Railroad. I understand that the railroad does a lot for the movement of goods from one side of the country to the other as well as to other countries. This is very important for the growth of our country. But on the other hand there are special side notes that need to be addressed. A lot of issues were addressed but some are being neglected. The issues that are being neglected are very important and that is Public Safety. Griffith Indiana is a slow growing town of about 18,000 people living here. At this point the Public service by the Police, and Fire Department have been great. The issue is that with more trains going thru town these services will be delayed. I am well aware of this. I am a member of the Griffith Fire Dept. Right now the train traffic is being dealt with. There are a lot of times when there is a fire call, the fire engine is delayed causing lack of support and resources to the incident. This is also the case for an ambulance going to a call but delayed. This can cause someone in distress to wait and have the symptoms get worse and even death. There are some costly ways of dealing with this and some less costly ways. We have a Fire station on the north side of town with a bridge going over the tracks there. This has been the only way to get across the tracks to get to a call on the other end of town. Some ideas have come across the drawing board about dealing with such issues. One way is to have one Ambulance, Police car and Fire engine, with full time personnel, be assigned to the south end of town on the south end of the railroad tracks. Also have the same on the north end of town to provide coverage to the town. On the south end of town there is a fire station, this can be added on to house an Ambulance and Full-Time Fire personnel. This will include 2 new bays and living quarters for the personnel. Also a kitchen and recreation room. On the north end of town, the fire station already has a kitchen and some living quarters. Needs another bay for an ambulance. We are looking at some remodeling to a couple of stations as well hiring about 16-24 personnel as Firefighter - EMT. This includes full benefits and pay and insurance. They would work 24hr and off 48hrs.

The other option is to buy out some businesses and homes and build some bridges over 3 major intersections. This can be very costly to the railroad and the town. If the first option would be workable, the railroad could incur the cost of startup and continuing to pay for the full time personnel thru out the time that the Canadian National Railroad owns the tracks. From there who ever buys the railroad in the future will incur the cost of supporting the emergency services. This would also look good for the railroad with the purchase.

Sincerely,

Dan Michels
Resident of Griffith Indiana
And Griffith Firefighter

213 W 410th Place
Griffith IN 46319

PM 10/20