

16579

September 18, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

This letter pertains to the Draft EIS for docket number FD 35087 Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation – Control- EJ&E West Company. My comments on the DEIS concern my school district, Indian Prairie School District 204.

Indian Prairie School District 204 transports 17,500 students each day. The EJ&E tacks run through more than 11 miles of this district and will fracture our school transportation system. There are two grade-level crossings that are particularly busy and hazardous. School buses cross the Ogden Avenue tracks a total of 164 times each day and the Montgomery Avenue tracks 139 times each day. Gate closures are anticipated to increase up to 10 minutes per train. The buses will now have to pick up students long before their normal pick up times to allow the proper time for anticipated trains. Delays created by rail traffic will force students to ride on the buses longer and cost our district more money. Buses will pollute our environment as they idle waiting for trains to cross. Please incorporate this into your FEIS.

Peterson Elementary School in District 204, 4008 Chinaberry Lane, Naperville, IL. (between 111th and 103rd) is one of the sensitive receptors. Hazardous materials will be transported on an average of one per day through residential neighborhoods and very close to Peterson School. For the safety of our children, is it possible NOT to transport hazardous material while they are in school? It appears that the plans are to add a third track near Peterson Elementary School for storage. Why will CN be allowed to store their trains so close to an elementary school?

What are the plans for construction noise, storage, and switching? NEPA requires the study of construction impacts. In this DEIS the construction impacts are non-existent. Before you move forward, I feel it is necessary to make an addendum to the DEIS on construction impacts so that people are able to comment before the Final EIS. It is my understanding that an additional track will be added from 127th in Plainfield north to Liberty in Aurora. In the District 204 school system, there are seven sensitive receptors (schools) located with a half mile of the tracks in which construction is likely to occur. How can the people comment on the noise, vibration, pollution, traffic delays, etc of the construction if this information was not provided? Will the construction crews be allowed to work during school hours? What is the anticipated length of construction? Will temporary walls be installed to keep the dust and dirt from the school playgrounds?

What is being done to ensure that our children are safe and that their schools and playgrounds are not polluted during construction? The construction noise of the additional track is predicted to be above acceptable levels. What is being done to correct this? Could construction be done at times when our children are not in school? Could construction be done at a time when residents are not sleeping?

Please address these issues concerning District 204 and create an addendum on construction so that comments could be made before the Final EIS..

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Updegraff

24952 GATES LANE

PLAINFIELD, IL

60585