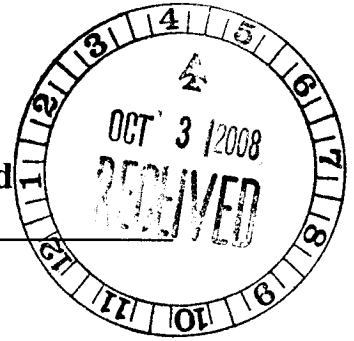


U.S. Clay Producers Traffic Association**Incorporated**

September 26, 2008 .

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

Subject: *Canadian National Railway Co., et al. – Control – EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance
Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

This letter from the US Clay Producers Traffic Association Inc. (USCPTA) is in connection with the STB decision to delay acting on CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) until a full Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is prepared by the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA). The Association supports the proposed transaction as it will improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area, to the benefit of railroads and their customers as well as the Chicagoland region generally. We write because we believe there is a serious risk that if the STB does not issue a timely final decision, the many public benefits projected to arise from the transaction will be jeopardized.

The USCPTA is a 52 year old organization whose members are actively involved in the mining, processing and shipping of kaolin and other clay products. One important function of the Association is to express the common views of the industry on transportation-related matters.

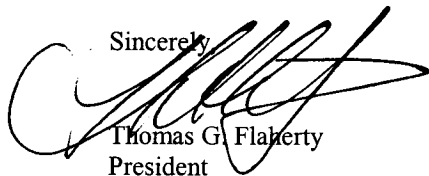
The traffic of our members generally must move by rail from Middle Georgia customers who use kaolin or other clays as an ingredient in the manufacture of countless products, including paper, paint, adhesives, bathroom fixtures, rubber and plastics, kitty litter and animal feed filler, just to name a few. Members that the Association represents are deeply invested in rail transportation since 90% of the domestic volume of this industry moves by rail and members own or lease approximately 7,500 private rail cars. A significant volume of traffic is routed to customers through the Chicago area. The alleviation of rail congestion has a direct benefit in allowing a reduction in fleet costs.

The USCPTA supports CN's proposed acquisition because we expect that it will lead to reduced congestion in the Chicago region by rerouting traffic to and from the CN off its existing lines to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago. This will lead to more efficient rail operations in the area, an increase in the velocity of cars moving through Chicago, and a reduction in the overall number of railcars needed to serve our member's customers. The USCPTA agrees with CN that the transaction also will reduce congestion for approximately 60 communities in the region, bringing meaningful environmental benefits to millions of people.

The reduced congestion and increased efficiency that this transaction would bring are important to rail customers and to the health of our nation's freight rail network. SEA has conducted a thorough environmental review, providing opportunities over the past several months for the public to comment on the transaction and its impacts.

Our Association believes the many beneficial impacts of this transaction are important and we urge the Board to expedite its review of the transaction so that a final decision can be effective before the end of 2008.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Flaherty
President

US Clay Producers Traffic Assoc.

Cc: USCPTA members:

KaMinLLC

Imerys

Theile Kaolin

KT Clays

Oil Dri Inc

Active Minerals Int'l LLC

BASF

Burgess Minerals

Spinks Clay Co.

WSMO&S PC