



Environmental Impact Statement

16874



CN | EJ&E

Voice-mail Transcript

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

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Transcript:

I'd like to go on record opposing the Canadian National purchase of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railroad. I'm a retired railroader and I know quite a bit about railroading and I think the Canadian National has not offered sufficient amount of money to offset the environmental damage that will be done by transferring all those freight trains to the EJ&E. \$40 million is like pocket change to the Canadian National. There's a lot of those open, what they call at grade crossings there along the EJ&E, and those need to have an either over or underpass, under pass or overpass built, you've got a lot of areas there where fire trucks and etc. need to be able to have quick access to areas and that has not been made before the Canadian National is allowed to purchase the EJ&E. The Canadian National should be compelled to build as many overpasses or underpasses at the at grade crossings as needed to see that the residences and commercial properties on both sides of the crossing have quick access to fire trucks, etc. There's no real benefit for the people of these areas. I live in Stromburg, I go into Barrington because that's where I bought my car and so when I need dealer service on my car, I go into Barrington and have been delayed by EJ&E trains in Barrington, so even though I live in Stromburg I have been adversely affected by trains running on the EJ&E because the crossing is at grade driving to and from the car dealer. So I think the people's concerns in these areas should be taken into effect and with all the revenue and resources that the Candian National has, they should be compelled to make whatever adjustments are necessary for each of the towns along the way to see that there will be no impact upon the towns with the running of the additional freight trains on that line. There's also another factor, I think the EJ&E, Candian National should be compelled to, in advance, make arrangements with the RTA so that that new STAR Line that they want to build along there can be built. That STAR Line corridor, the Canadian National is not known for their cooperation on the surburban trains and so I think that before they get anything here, they should, you know, be compelled to indicate they will cooperate and do whatever is necessary to insure the success of the STAR Line, to be built along the corridor there. And also I have some concern with all those extra trains running, there are some crossings of the other carriers, especially the west, well, even the north, north west, and west suburban train, they'll be crossing and I have some concerns that they'll be rinning trains during the rush hour and the rush hours trains will be delayed, leading to problems that way. The Canadian National needs to be, have their feet held to the fire, as the saying goes, until they guarantee that they will, their running of their freight trains will not disrupt the commuter trains. I think that's a very important point. They need to be held to a standard <cut off>