

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
4

5 * 00723.011508.THORNTON.CTZ.60443.S.N.CF
6
7
8

9 STATEMENT OF:

10 MARY ANN THORNTON

11 JANUARY 15, 2008

12 HOLIDAY INN

13 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE

14 MATTESON, ILLINOIS

15 Surface Transportation Board

16 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

17 Log and Distribution

18 Date Rcvd: _____

19 HDR File No. ✓

20 Scanned (Initial): _____

21 STAECT#: _____

22 Cc: Original - Job File
23 _____
24 _____

21 **HDR**
CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

22 Telephone: 312-781-9111
23

24 REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

1 MS. THORNTON: Mary Ann Thornton.
2 Good afternoon. Thank you so much to the Surface
3 Transportation Board for providing this
4 opportunity for me to speak on behalf of the
5 Village of South Holland.

6 We support Canadian National's
7 acquisition of EJ&E West Company. However our
8 support is from the perspective of looking at the
9 bigger picture, that being region wide, the
10 benefits will far outweigh the potential negative
11 impact.

12 Currently freight trains are routed
13 right through the heart of the city of Chicago
14 and through densely populated areas such as South
15 Holland. We experience trains idling waiting to
16 get into train yards. With the purchase of the
17 EJ&E, the route as we understand it would loop
18 around these more densely populated areas and
19 therefore keep trains moving efficiently. This
20 would also be better for the environment as it
21 would reduce the number of idling trains.

22 Now we recognize that communities
23 such as Matteson and Frankfort are just as
24 populated as South Holland. However the EJ&E

1 route in total passes through far less densely
2 populated areas than the current route.

3 Obviously during times when the US
4 economy is sailing beautifully, freight activity
5 is heavier. We certainly empathize with those
6 communities that have the potential of
7 experiencing an adverse impact. The village of
8 South Holland knows firsthand of this impact, an
9 impact on traffic flow and the inconvenience for
10 residents and commuters and so we are genuinely
11 empathetic and we understand their issues.

12 In fact, our public safety team
13 relies heavily on mutual aid because of the train
14 crossings. We have been dealing with these kinds
15 of issues as a community for as long as the
16 railroads have been around. However we are
17 supportive because we recognize that it's a
18 benefit to the region. Yes, it could be a
19 benefit to the village of South Holland as we
20 could potentially have fewer freight trains, but
21 more importantly this is wise for the region.

22 We hope this board will consider
23 provisions that will minimize the impact on these
24 communities. Thank you.