

17118

729 Indian Way,
Barrington,
IL 60010
9/25/08

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423.

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Sirs,

I must add my protest to fellow residents of the Chicago suburbs who are against the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by Canadian National. In my opinion such a sale by a foreign enterprise is a betrayal of our rights as American citizens. There have been many arguments advanced against the proposed sale; economic, ecological, egotistical, environmental and by no means last, endangerment! Five E's! Five failing grades!

I would summarize my personal views as follows:-

Economic

- Barrington, and other towns on the EJ&E rail line will see a decline in property values as CN increase freight traffic through the region.
- Village and town commercial centers will lose sales as customers drive to less traffic congested shopping centers.
- The village of Barrington cannot afford the cost of upgrading the grade crossings on the major roads, IL state routes 12 and 59, and Main Street (Lake Cook Road).
- CN have offered a pittance to assist with the costs of upgrading of the hundred or more grade crossings on the EJ&E Line.

Ecological

- The EJ&E line runs through several Forest Preserves as it circumnavigates Chicago. The rare wild life in these Preserves will be exposed to toxic fumes, pollutants and noise if CN is allowed to increase rail traffic.

Egotistical

- Throughout the drawn out period of negotiations and approvals CN and its management have acted with extreme egotism.
- They have refused to discuss the impact of the sale with our local, state and federal elected officials on an equitable basis.
- They have tried to side step the stages needed for approval by the STB and Congress.
- They have the arrogance, as a foreign commercial corporation, to dictate to the US government, its officials and citizens that the US should pay CN's additional costs of the acquisition.

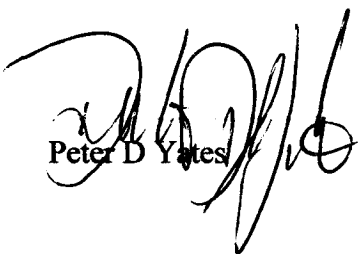
Environmental

- The village of Barrington supplies its residents with city water pumped from a shallow aquifer. Should this aquifer be contaminated by a hazardous chemical spill then the village water supply will be contaminated. Although Lake Michigan is only 35 miles away the US Congress has just passed legislation banning further expansion of the Great Lakes water exploitation, so Barrington will not have an alternative source of water.
- Additional freight trains will add pollutants, noise and vibration to residents living close to the track.
- Train horn-free sectors will no longer exist. Residents' sleep will be disturbed by horns in the middle of the night.

Endangerment

- The EJ&E line bisects Barrington. Increased freight traffic will cut off half the village from the Police and Fire EMS services.
- The draft EIS failed to plot the Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital on its maps because the hospital is more than 2 miles from the EJ&E line! It's still our local hospital and we rely on its ER. Any delays in reaching the ER, due to streets being closed at grade crossings by 2 mile long trains, could be fatal.
- Barrington High School is 800 feet from the rail line. School buses cross the EJ&E line over 800 times a day. We all remember the tragic accident in Fox River Grove, a neighboring village, when a train hit a school bus at a grade crossing and killed eight students. You cannot allow this to happen again.
- In June of this year the EJ&E grade crossing on IL State Route 14 was closed 1 week for repairs. On the first day of closure, as a Good Shepherd Hospital volunteer returning home from work, it took me over an hour to drive a half mile down Main Street due to the traffic congestion. This was even after diversions had been posted for the through traffic. What will happen if CN have an accident in Barrington? The resulting tragedy should surely be on your conscience.
- CN safety record is bad! The records of the Canadian authorities show how bad it is. Do we really need to let a company, with this accident record and attitude, acquire a further opportunity for mismanagement?

In summary I believe that this acquisition is against the wishes of the local citizens, our local, state, and federal elected representatives. The clearance through the US House Transportation Committee of HR6707 should convince you that the public outcry against CN's purchase of the EJ&E line is not an example of NIMBY but a genuine protest by US citizens who object to being railroaded!



Peter D Yates