

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF
3 THE ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:
10 STEVE KRAMER
11 SEPTEMBER 10, 2008
12
13

14 INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST
15 3400 BROADWAY
16 GARY, INDIANA
17
18

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23 REPORTED BY: Rachel F. Gard, CSR, RPR,
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2 MR. KRAMER: Steve Kramer, K R A M E
3 R, Dyer Town Council.

4 A couple issues I have, (1), one
5 of the largest hospitals in the area is in
6 Dyer located at State Line and Route 30, or
7 Lincoln Highway, just a block away from a
8 major rail crossing from the proposed CN,
9 of the EJ&E line. It's not listed anywhere
10 on any of the material I've seen out here
11 today. It has a potential of being blocked
12 and possibility of stopping emergency
13 services to not only our residents but the
14 residents in the surrounding area,
15 including the state of Illinois.

16 The other problem is Dyer's rail
17 crossings, at-grade rail crossings are not
18 listed on any of the information that's
19 posted out here either. The railroad
20 crosses through our neighborhoods, and it
21 crosses our major north-south thoroughway
22 through town thereby bisecting our town in
23 half. I believe it's going to destroy our
24 business district on the northern side of

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1 this rail crossing.

2 This rail crossing is also the
3 major transportation from the north side of
4 town to the south side where the school is

5 located, the middle school and the high
6 school, and pose possible problems and
7 delays.

8 The other unique problem to the
9 town of Dyer, which is located on Route 30
10 on the Illinois/Indiana state line is not
11 only do we have the EJ&J, whatever it's
12 called, running east and west bisecting our
13 town, we also have another line that runs
14 parallel to the Sheffield or Hart Street
15 crossing running north and south. This
16 line is a CSX line which is used by the
17 freight trains and is the major route from
18 Chicago to Washington D.C. for Amtrak, for
19 the passenger train. This line crosses
20 over the proposed CNN Railroad purchase of
21 the EJ&E creating the possibility of an
22 accident with a passenger train.

23 But if the train is being -- is
24 utilizing the rail line going north and

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1 south and east and west, it would land-lock
2 or completely block off the section of our
3 community for any type of transportation,
4 any type of emergency services, and they
5 would not be able to go anywhere on any
6 road.

7 Looking at the emergency
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8 services that could be affected, the town
9 of Dyer, our emergency service building,
10 which is our police and fire -- only blocks
11 away from three of the crossings in Dyer --
12 have not even been listed on the material
13 here today either.

14 The other issue with Route 30 is
15 the major alternative to 80/94. All the
16 traffic, if there's any problems on 80/94,
17 is all diverted to Route 30 in town.
18 There's the potential of being backed up
19 miles and miles.

20 We also brought in to present
21 over 2600 signed petitions by our residents
22 in town. And that's just the obvious
23 effects that we see outside of the bad
24 environmental effects, which is, increase

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1 up to 400 percent of the transportation
2 through our community of hazardous
3 material, the environmental problems of the
4 noise, the vibrations because of the
5 train -- proposed increase from
6 approximately ten to approximately 34
7 trains a day, which, depending on the
8 length of the train, could be every 20 to
9 30 minutes.

10 Now, the vibrations with the
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11 homes that are close to the rail line may
12 incur problems with their foundations,
13 cracks in their driveways, sidewalks,
14 streets, let alone the additional noise
15 that it would create from the horns and
16 just the sounds of the trains coming
17 through their neighborhoods and backyards.

18 That's probably about it. Oh,
19 the other issue I was going to talk about
20 was the train-to-train accident, meaning
21 the passenger train from the CSX or freight
22 train crossing over, if there were to be an
23 accident, it would cut off all major
24 intersections in our community.

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1 (End of statement.)
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