

Other Submissions

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Docket #: FD -35087 - -

Subject: * CN EIS Statement

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Message: I wish to express deep concerns about the Canadian National Railway Company's (CN) proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E).

An increase in the quantity and length of trains will mean an increase in emergency vehicle response times to residents in need. The purchase would also negatively impact residents commuting to work, school and other activities. I also question CN's safety record. Not only did CN receive the lowest rating among its counterparts for implementing safety management systems, there was an accident in Griffith, Indiana two weeks ago today involving a CN train which injured three people. I encourage you to consider the potential impact of a railway with CN's reported safety record dramatically increasing operations on a line that traverses neighborhoods filled with parks, schools, and homes as well as commercial establishments.

I was disappointed that the STB's EIS came out a month sooner than it projected. This accelerated review process tacitly favors CN over the impacted communities. The statement is nine inches thick and thousands of pages long, and while I realize the public comment period is two weeks longer than federally mandated, this restricted period denies the people of Northwest Indiana a reasonable opportunity to fully consider its contents and weigh in on it. And the public meeting is scheduled for September 10 which only gives the public about 39 days to read, comprehend and formulate their thoughts on the statement before the meeting. It seems like the STB is only going through the motions - I hope this is not the case.

I am completely opposed to the CN's purchase of the EJ&E and I hope and pray the Surface Transportation Board puts people over profit and denies CN's request.