

Correspondence

Other Submissions

In order to process your filing, please fill out the following information. If you do not know the docket number, please leave it blank and we will fill it out for you.

Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #: - - -

Subject: * STB Finance Docket # 35087
 First Name: * Michelle
 Middle Name: * A
 Last Name: * Miller
 Address: * 619 S.Hough Street
 City: * Barrington
 State: * IL
 Zip Code: * 60010-
 Email Address: * milminger@sbcglobal.net
 Group/Affiliation:
 Message:

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet Easter Railway Company. On the evening of January 9, I attended the the scoping meeting at the McRay Golf Course in Barrington. At the meeting, I listened to the questions and concerns of my neighbors and the answers from the STB. I now have a better understanding of the process. The need for the STB to fully understand the negative impact of the acquisition is critical. There are several areas that I would like to address:

Traffic flow - Currently, we have several traffic challenges in Barrington. Rt. 59 (Hough Street) is one lane and is the major N/S route for many commuters. During rush hour, when Metra trains stop, traffic quickly builds. Even in my small town, it can take me 20 minutes or more for me to travel from Hillside and Route 14 to my house on Hough Street (less than 1 mile). Adding additional freight trains will increase the problems we already face. In the three years that I have lived here, I have witnessed numerous accidents from fender benders to cars crashing into my tree. My daughter must walk down and cross Hough Street every day to attend school. My fear is that an impatient or reckless driver will choose not to stop at school crossings. The train tracks also cross Main Street in the vicinity of the High School. On a daily basis, there is congestion and confusion. I can imagine students anxious to get to and from school racing the train and ending in disaster. I hope the STB will actually take the time to observe traffic, not just analyze data points to get a true picture of traffic issues and concerns.

Hazardous materials: CN's vision is to increase the transportation of products form Chemical and Petrochemical manufacturing. Safety of these potential hazardous chemicals is a great concern. As so many residents and schools are in close proximity to the tracks, the risk of exposure would be great in the event of accidental spill or leak. Emergency vehicles and response for clean-up would also be hampered by traffic. I am also concerned about the number of trains on the tracks and the need for increased maintenance and improvement to increase safety of the tracks. When is maintenance likely to happen and how will that impact us?

Surface Transportation Board
 CN-EJ&B E-35087

Log and Document

Date Received _____

HDR File _____

Scanned _____

STAEC _____

Cc: Original Web File

HDR

Negative impact on community: Barrington and the northwest suburbs are a highly sought after location. If this application goes through, I believe it would negatively impact the quality of life. Many would choose to leave - if they could sell their property, there would be a decrease in property value and loss of revenues for the village, businesses will lose revenue, schools could lose teachers that either live in the area or choose not make a "challenging" commute, Metra Rail Service will be disrupted making it harder for commuters to get downtown to work, and the economic viability of this area would be threatened.

I hope the STB will review all of these issues and more in the SEA and recommend that the application be denied or that major mitigation is warranted.

Regards,

Michelle Miller