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Surface Transportation Board
Incoming Correspondence Record

#EI-12452

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*Name of Sender:	Richard L. Sweet	Letter Type:	E-filing w/ Attachments	
Group:				
Attention Of:	Phillis Johnson-Ball			
*Date Received:	09/22/2008	NEPA Type:	Draft EIS Comment	
Date of Letter:	09/22/2008	In Public Docket?	☒ Yes ☐ No	
Group's Address:	11 Park Place Circle			
		Phone Number:	847 550-1399	
Group's City:	Hawthorn Woods	Email Address:	rlsweet@wildblue.net	
Group's State:	IL	Group's Zip Code:	60047-	

Submitter's Comments

STB's Comments

Image Attachment(s)

11 Park Place Circle
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to urge you and the Surface Transportation Board to reject the Canadian National acquisition of the EJ&E line in the Chicago suburban area. If the sale is approved, as many as 25 trains could pass through this area every day. There are many problems that this sale would cause for our area and very few benefits.

My reason for urging this action is an environmental Issue. The EJ&E Railroad runs through Mundelein, Hawthorn Woods and Lake Zurich, IL. For the two miles it runs through Hawthorn Woods and a mile on each side of that, the houses that are near the tracks all have wells. (Almost all the houses in Hawthorn Woods are on wells.) Currently, I have not seen any tank cars on the trains passing through these suburbs. The CN Railroad has indicated that they will be hauling tank cars with all kinds of chemicals. To date, they have not said what those chemicals will be. However, our local fire department has said that some of those chemicals will be hazardous.

My concern is what happens if there is a spill and those chemicals seep into the aquifer. Will that render the wells unusable? If the wells are unusable, our houses will be deemed uninhabitable by the local government. Once that happens, we will be forced to move out of our houses because there is no way to clean the water in the aquifer. We would have to wait until it dissipates. I don't think anyone can anticipate how long that will take. I don't believe this is question of IF, I believe it is a question of WHEN.

Please consider this matter carefully when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Sweet