

03407.021508, BARRY. CT2. 60010.0.N.E.

Johnson-Ball

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Docket #: -35087 - -

Subject: \* CN RR Acquisition of EJ&E  
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Message: The proposed acquisition would result in serious impacts on human safety and the local economy. With the increased frequency and length of freight trains, as many as 5 consecutive grade crossings would be blocked simultaneously, resulting in much longer response and transport times for police, fire and EMS. Our local hospital is a very large employer in the region, and currently ranks as a Level II Trauma Center. As transports are delayed, patient statistics are bound to plummet, affecting the hospitals ranking, with the result that grants, donations and patient visits will decline.

Surface Transportation Board  
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087  
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by: ECTA \_\_\_\_\_

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Many of the grade crossings are in or near protected wetlands and most residences are on well water. Should there be any spills of hazardous materials, hundreds if not thousands of wells might be polluted, with no alternative supply of municipal water.

Should this acquisition proceed, school busses and parent car pools will be delayed for many minutes each day, impacting the local school districts 95 and 220 with the need to provide additional supervision and accept more liability, at a time when there is no additional funding available.

The desire to bypass Chicago proper is a temporary need, if and only if Chicago is declared the host of the Olympics. In any case, the infrastructure of Chicago proper routes train lines at below street level, making it a more appropriate route for freight trains.

If this acquisition should be approved, it should go forward only with specific funding from CN and the DOT to create remediation at all grade crossings, including but not limited to emergency over- or under-passes open only to police, fire and EMS equipment. However, a study of these crossings would indicate that there is not sufficient easement and/or buildable property to allow this remediation.

I am attaching a file that is an interview with Police Chief Jeff Lawler of Barrington, Illinois, made at a recent STB open house. Should this file not transmit properly, it can

be viewed at <http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/CNRailAcquisition.html>