



**PEARSON CAPITAL
GROUP**

A Solid Foundation for Growth

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

Surface Transportation Board January 27, 2008

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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We are writing to voice our concerns regarding the Canadian National Railroad's plan affecting our area. We live in Barrington, Illinois, one of seven communities that comprise our small, compact area, with a population of 40,000. We are not only in the vicinity of the EJ & E, but our home is across the street from this railroad, and we have to cross the railroad to get to town to shop, or to go to our Doctors, Hospital, Business appointments, really anywhere we need to go on a daily basis.

It is hard to be specific when listing our fears...there is not one thing that is more important than others...it is even hard to put them in a list of priorities. I will list them here, as best as I can:

1. My husband and I both have heart problems, and have felt secure in the past, living so close to Good Shepherd Hospital, but an ambulance stopped by gridlock, traffic backed up for miles, with no alternative route, could mean an untimely death for us or anyone in an ambulance.
2. Since the word came out about the CN, any thought that people in Barrington had of selling their homes and moving, is dashed by the fact that our home values would be drastically reduced, if we were able to sell at all. Jewel Park was always a target for young families because of the proximity of both Public and Catholic Schools, but with children walking to school, or school buses having to wait for trains, making children and teachers late for school constantly, plus the danger of so many trains, I doubt families would be inclined to move to Barrington, Illinois in the future. There is no question that the general residential values will decline as will the tax revenues on these lower values. The tax revenues available for our expensive school system will no longer be available, and the quality of our highly rated educational system will suffer dramatically.
3. We live across the street from the EJ & E tracks, and the noise from the trains, which now only numbers 3 to 5 trains in a 24 hour period, is estimated to grow upward from 20 to a possible 53 trains in a 24 hour period, is impossible to imagine. We moved to Barrington for the quality of life it offered, but if this sale goes through, it would be like living in a war zone.
4. Life as we know it would change drastically. We would constantly have to add at least 20 to 40 minutes for every errand in Barrington, or just to get out of town,

because most of us cross this railroad in the course of our travels. You need more than the 10 minutes that the normal freight train is supposed to take at a crossing, because after traffic is backed up, you might miss 1, 2 or 3 green lights depending on how far back in line you are, after the train passes.

5. With this large number of freight trains, accidents will happen, and in fact has already happened ... Canadian National tank cars carrying hazardous chemicals derailed on Feb. 9, 2003, causing the residents of Tamaroa, IL, to be exposed to breathing harmful chemicals, contaminated their food and water supplies, they lost wages, and their properties diminished as the result of contamination.
6. There is a book out now called "The World After People". We could make a movie about "Barrington After Freight Trains". Like the "The World After People", I can see what used to be this upscale suburb, looking like a deserted town, stores boarded up, sidewalks and roads and driveways with weeds growing in deep cracks, shutters on homes hanging half off. Banks and gas stations have Keep Off signs, and there are faded For Sale signs everywhere... this is the NEW BARRINGTON, result of the forward looking CN Railroad. But the freight trains will be running... boy, will they running. And several towns, not just Barrington, will be practically non-existent, in their wake.
7. We understand the CN Railroad has offered to spend \$100,000,000 or more to accommodate some of the problems that have been identified. I look at the map of greater Chicagoland, it would seem to me it would be no more expensive, possibly less, to extend the EJ & E through open fields and accomplish the same objectives without destroying all these communities.
8. We are really pleading for our lives... this is not just an annoyance we are trying to keep out of our town. Trouble is coming to River City... with a capital "T". We are asking you to see how detrimental the CN Railroad will be to many, many towns.

Thank you for reading and considering our concerns,



Donald E. Pearson



Dolores S. Pearson

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