



Environmental Impact Statement



CN | EJ&E

Scoping Comment for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Comment Form

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at the public open house scoping meeting, or follow the directions on the reverse side of this sheet to mail your comments.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a member of the project team or court reporter at this public open house scoping meeting, or call the toll-free project information line: 1-800-347-0689.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, under the heading "E-Filing."

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. Comments must be submitted by February 1, 2008.

The Illinois Prairie Path is a sixty-two-mile-long National Recreation Trail located on the abandoned Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railway (electric) right-of-way in Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties and is used for bicycling, hiking, jogging, skiing, horseback riding and nature study. Surveys indicate that there are over 300,000 user trips annually on the trail. It consists of a main stem that runs from Forest Park in Cook County to Wheaton in DuPage County where it splits into two branches, one going to Elgin and the other going to Aurora, both in Kane County. There is a spur from the Elgin Branch that goes to Geneva and one from the Aurora Branch that goes to Batavia. The EJ and E railroad crosses both branches and both spurs.

The proposed CN use of the EJ and E right-of-way would seriously impact this very popular recreational facility. The EJ and E crosses the Elgin Branch at grade south of Army Trail Road in Wayne. It crosses the Geneva Spur just west of Reed-Kepplar Park in West Chicago. Here there is a prize-winning bridge built by DuPage County DOT that carries the trail over the multitude of railroad tracks at this location. There are two more at-grade crossings, one on the Batavia Spur just north of Interstate I-88 and the other on the Aurora Branch west of Frontenac Road and south of Diehl Road.

All three at-grade crossings are at present dangerous but the infrequent use of the EJ and E makes the situation tolerable. The proposed extensive use of the railroad by dozens of CN freight trains every day would make our National Recreation Trail very unpleasant and extremely dangerous for our users. In addition our National Recreation Trail status might be in jeopardy. Therefore we feel that grade separations at all three of the at-grade crossings would be essential.

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

What scoping meeting did you attend? (Please circle): Mundelein, Barrington, Joliet, Matteson, Gary, West Chicago, Chicago.

HDR File No. _____

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Date: _____

JANUARY 19, 2008

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

Comments provided by the public help determine the scope of the environmental review.

HDR