

September 22, 2008

Dear STB Board Members,

My name is Cheryl Satkus and I live at 330 North Indiana in Griffith, Indiana. I've lived at 330 N Indiana for 23 years. Across the street is Tot Park...that's TOT as in kiddie park. For 23 years I've watched small children play in that park. I've seen parents push their little ones in baby swings and watched kids play on the teeter-totter. Currently, on some afternoons, you can see 4 yr olds practicing soccer. Kids of all ages (and older kids too) play basketball at the basketball court there. And I've seen the senior citizens come & go at the Senior Center, located just north of the basketball court.

On the other side of the park is the set of EJ&E Railroad tracks. For 23 years I've watched as the EJ&E hauled, and continue to haul, all kinds of hazardous materials along those tracks. Just a few nights ago, at 8:20 pm, two trains hauling various materials, came rolling by. I'd like to comment on just two of the hazardous materials that were on those trains last night.....

Chlorine, according to the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook, is placarded as 1017, and is **toxic and may be fatal if inhaled**. According to the Guidebook, "If tank, rail car or tank truck is involved in a fire.....**consider initial evacuation for ½ mile radius.**"

Butane was another material I observed last night. Butane is placarded as 1075 and has a red placard to indicate a fire hazard. Butane is **extremely flammable and can be easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames**. **Evacuation in this case would be a 1 mile radius.**

Members of the STB, the Town of Griffith has a **VOLUNTEER** fire department that is already unprepared to appropriately respond to an incident from a leak or a spill or a derailment. Now the Canadian National Railroad wants to increase these hazards that are rolling past our parks, our children and our senior citizens, by **4 times** what we already can't handle!!!!!! With **your** permission, CN will increase the chances of an incident at TOT Park by 30% !!!!!

Please do what's right and **MORAL**, and **deny** the CN request to bring even more hazards and poisons though our **RESIDENTIAL** communities.

I'm sending you pictures of the neighborhood that I'm talking about. These pictures show Tot Park and the homes along Indiana Street and Wood Street. Please take a good long look at this residential neighborhood of middle income, blue collar families. If the CN purchases the EJ&E, and if they make the changes they're proposing, this neighborhood will become a very dangerous, noisy and polluted place. Families will leave these homes and no kids will be playing soccer at the park or at the fields behind St. Mary's School. Please don't let that happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Satkus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Cheryl Satkus
330 N Indiana Street
Griffith, IN 46319

HOME AT 330 N. Indiana St., Griffith, IN



Across the street from my home; 4 yr olds at soccer practice in Tot Park.



ESJE
Tracks
↙



Single family homes in the 300 block
of N. Indiana Street, across the street
from Tot Park (to the left).



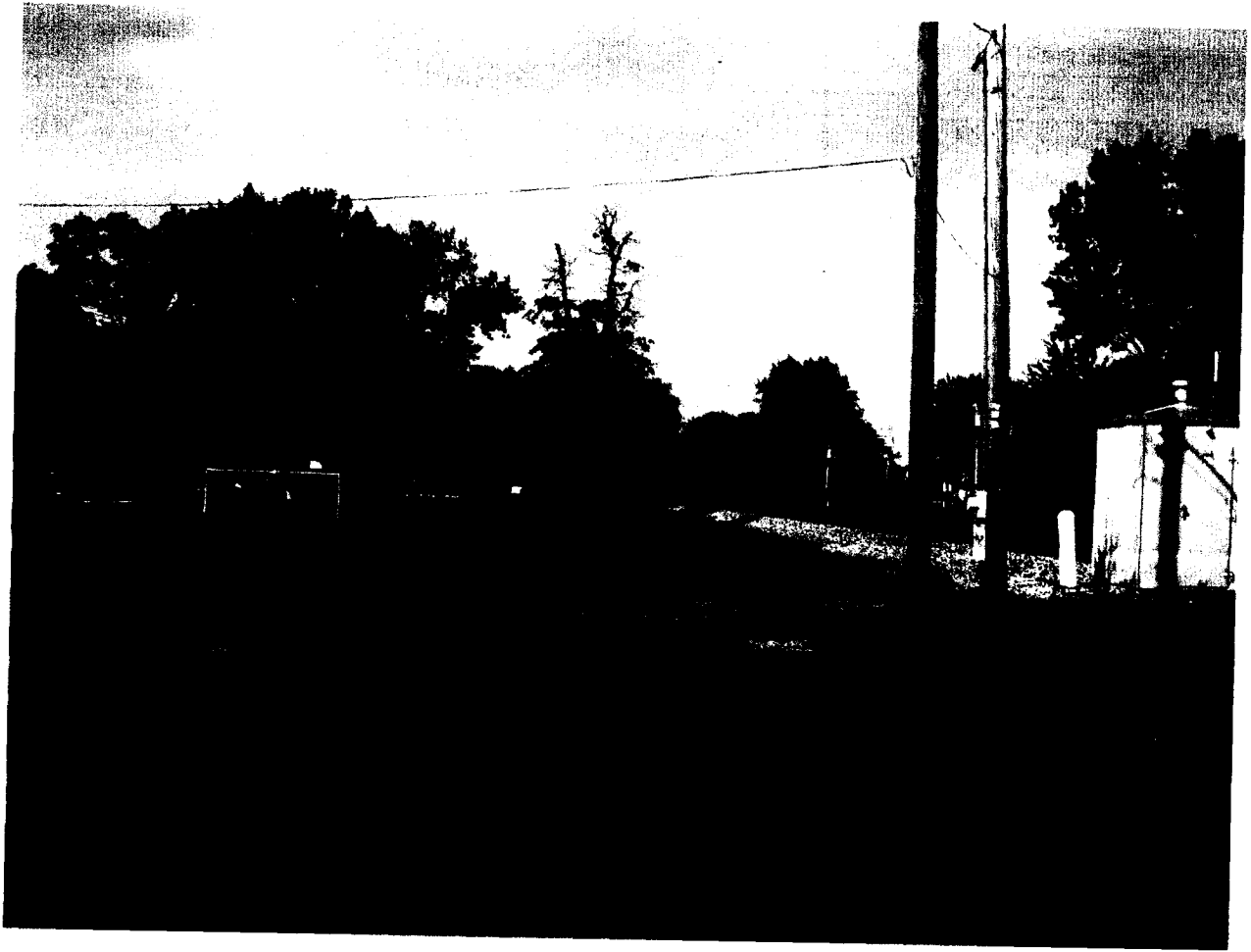
Single family homes in the 400 block
of Indiana St. The EJ+E tracks
run along the backyards of these homes.



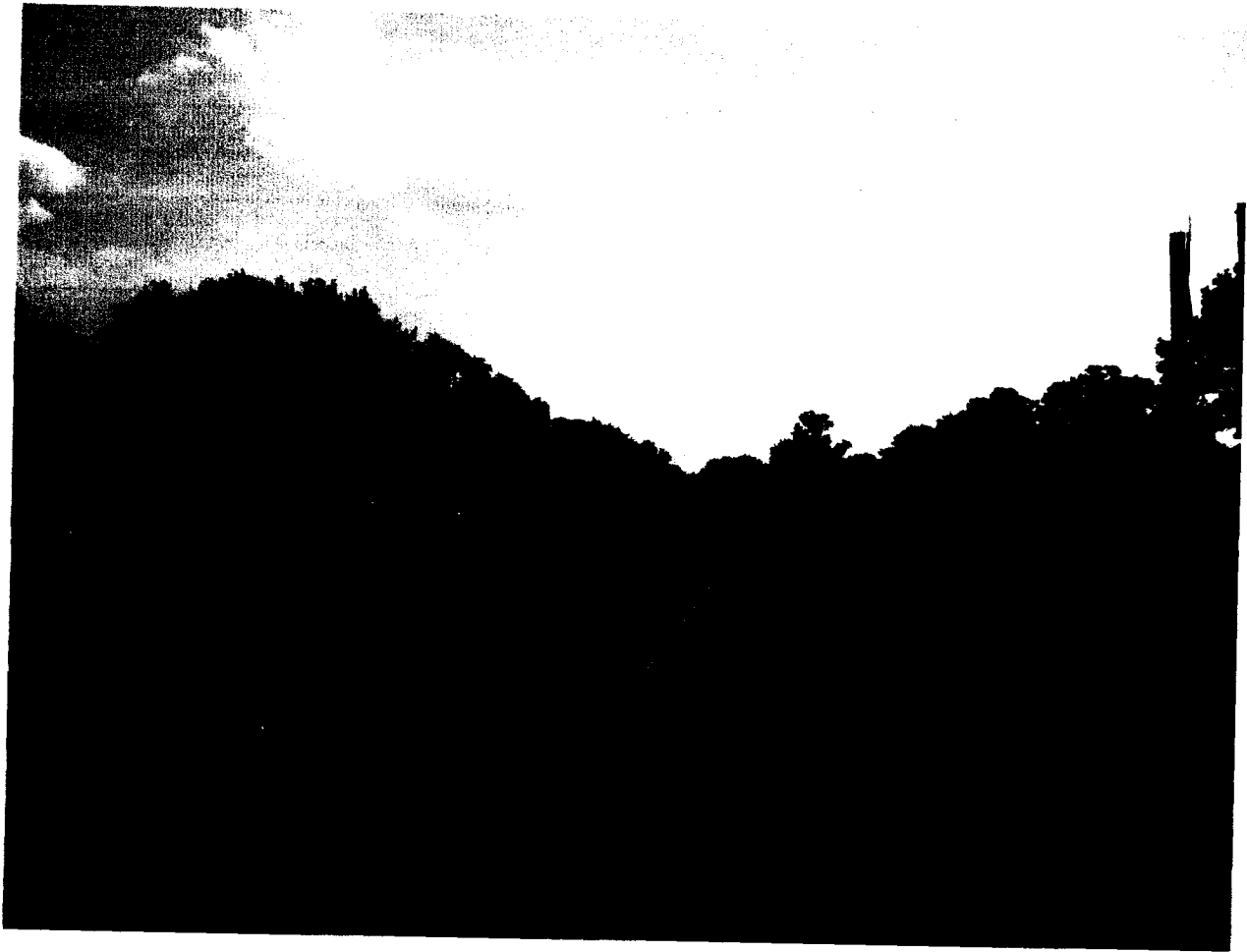
View of the EJ+E tracks looking north.

Picture taken from Elm Street.

Tracks run close to back yards of homes located in the 500 block of Elmer. (to the right).



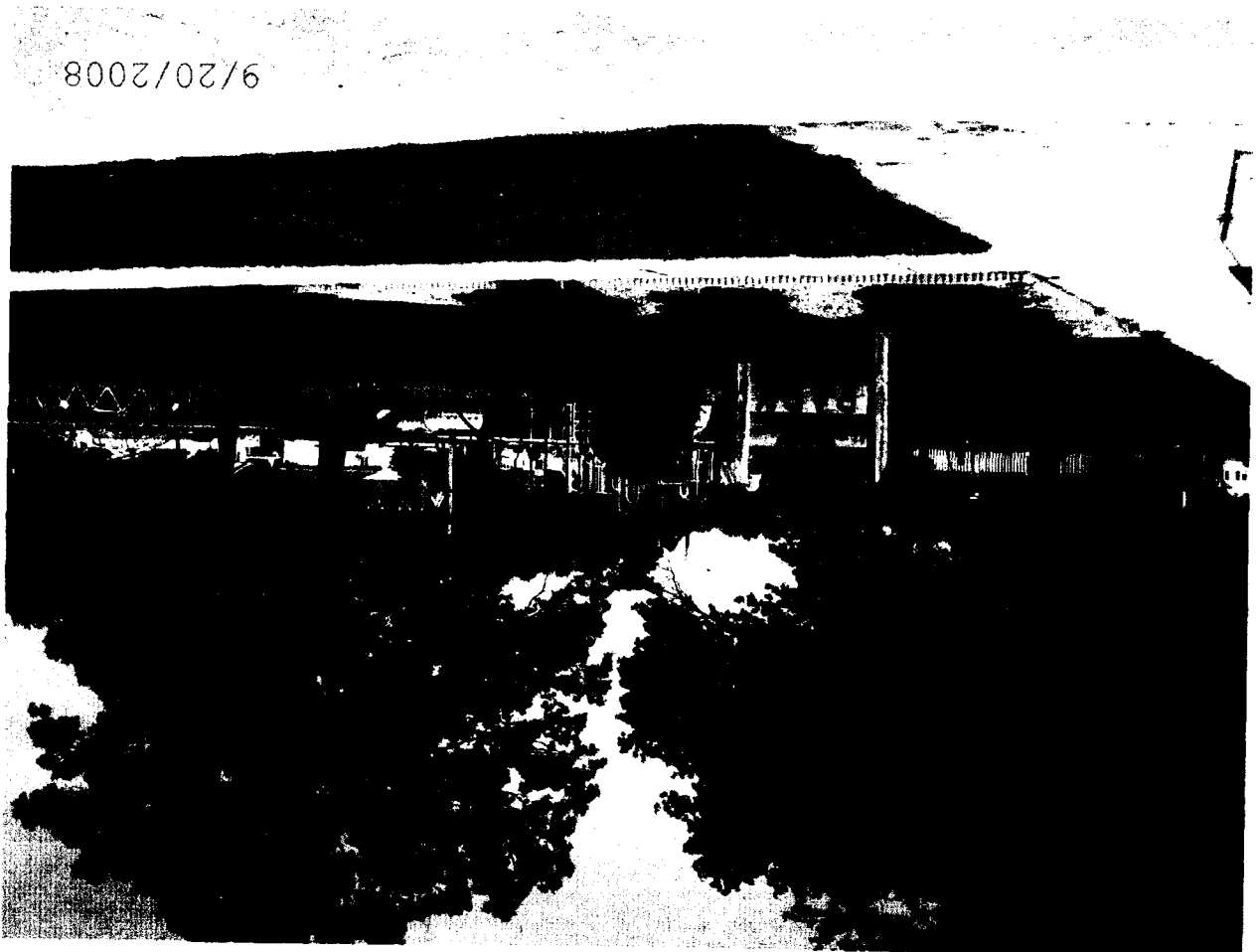
View of soccer fields (east of St. Mary's school).
EJ+E tracks run along the east side of the
fields. Picture taken from Elm Street, looking
north.

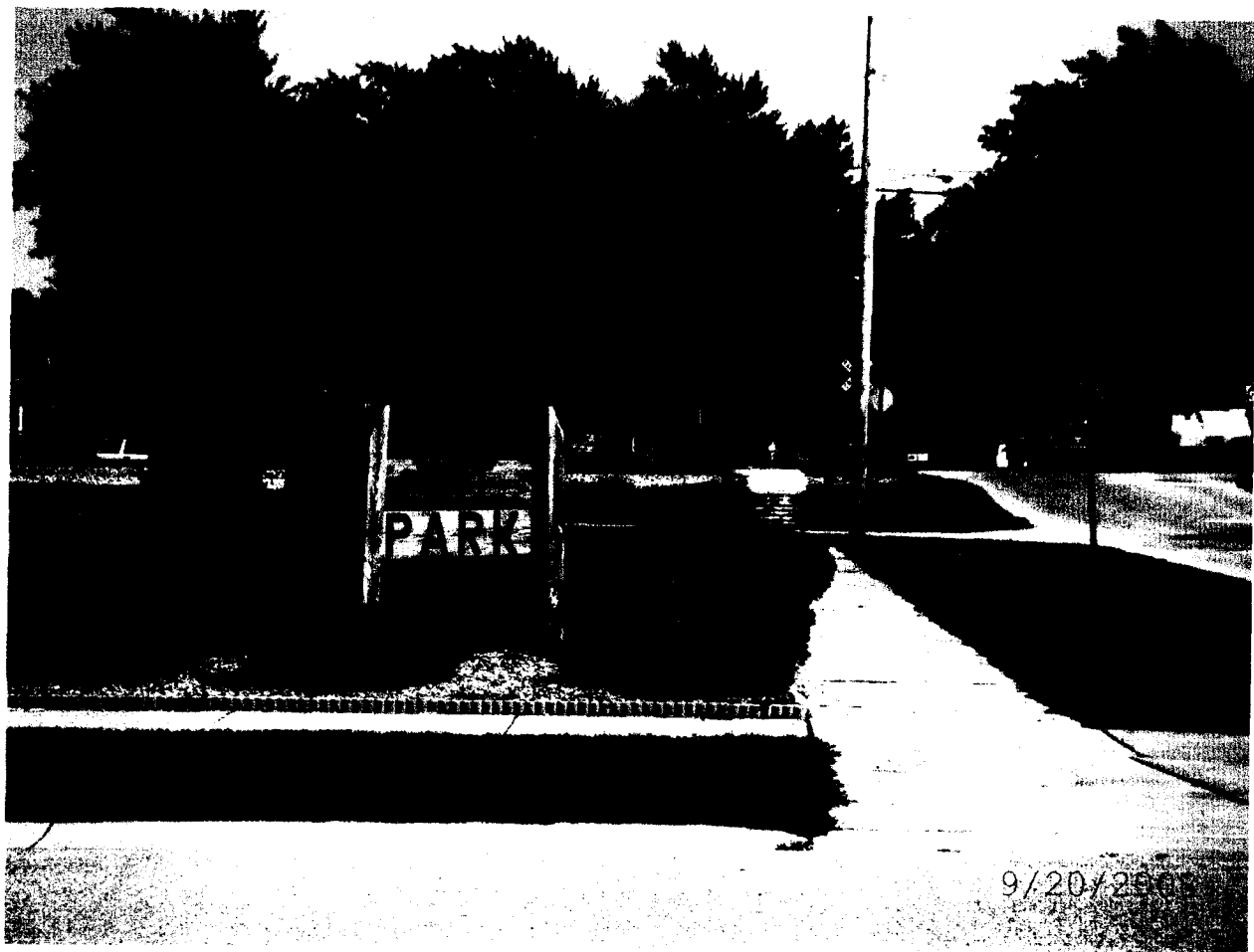


EJ + E tracks looking South from Miller St.
Single family homes are East of the tracks
(to the left) and Tot Park + the Senior Center
are West of the tracks (to the right).

Tot Park with parents + children
enjoying the Saturday afternoon.

Picture was taken from Lake St. + Indiana St,
looking northeast.





Tot Park at Lake St. + Indiana St. looking east. Notice the vehicle crossing the EJ+E tracks and please notice the close location of the tracks to Tot Park.



An EJ+E train coming from the north,
passing the Senior Center, single family
homes + a basketball court. Coming up
to the Tot Park Pavillion.



Picture of EJ+ E train going south along
east side of Tot Park.

Picture taken from N. Indiana Street,
300 block.