



Environmental Impact Statement

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company

Date: 9/19/08

Comments must be submitted by September 30, 2008.

see attached.

[illegible]

Joliet

My wife and I live with the realities of the EJ&E every day. Our home backs directly to the EJ&E Right of Way. We also happen to live about 6 houses away from a crossing.

What are these realities? Painfully loud horn blasts as the engines approach the crossing. Even in winter, with the doors and windows closed, the horn blasts are so loud that you can not hear the TV sitting 10 feet from you. Good luck sleeping in summer with the windows open.

What are these realities? Smelling diesel exhaust and particulate matter on a daily basis.

What are these realities? The fact that most of our doors and windows no longer work properly due to cumulative vibrational damage and the numerous, and growing, cracks in our walls also from vibrations.

And these realities are based on the current level of EJ&E traffic. CN is proposing to increase this by a factor of 3 and that is just in the short term. That's 3 times as much pollution, 3 times as many vibrations, 3 times the noise, 3 times the impact to wildlife and the environment. And this does not factor in the increase in likelihood of an accident nor of the increase in transport of hazardous or toxic materials. It also does not include future increases in number and/or length of trains which will further exacerbate these issues.

Benefits to our community? None. Trains don't stop so the crew can go shopping in our town. CN has no plans to compensate me for injuring my health by subjecting me to more pollution. CN has no plans to compensate me for a decrease in home value... just try showing your home to a prospective buyer with multiple passing trains blowing their horns. And that's after I have to spend thousands to fix all the vibrational damage.

However this isn't just about me. The CN is bringing in goods from China via Canadian ports instead of US ports. More transport jobs taken away from Americans. More manufacturing jobs taken away from Americans. The CN is not abandoning its current routes so instead of shifting the problem from one set of residents to another set, they are adding to them via this new route. And if the current routes are freed up with less traffic, other railroads will move in to take advantage of this void.

Simply put, without weighing the impact of this proposal on the millions of lives affected vs. the desire of a single foreign corporation, then the decision makers have completely failed the people that groups like them are designed to protect. Is it fair for Americans to subsidize foreign corporations with their money and their health? No.

I believe all individuals whose property is within 300', a number used by CN, of the tracks should be provided with an independently reviewed report detailing the loss of home value, the increase in percentage of health issues and the monies that CN is willing to provide each of us to remedy this. Failure to do so shows that CN will negatively impact the environment and all of our lives, that they know it, and that the STB should not approve this deal.