



Environmental Impact Statement

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CN | EJ&E

Voicemail Transcript

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed
Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the
Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company
STB Finance Docket No. 35087**

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Transcript:

I am against the purchase of the EJ&E by the CN on many levels, and I would encourage the STB to look at the environmental impacts on several things along this EJ&E track. Right now it borders the Cuba Marsh, and I understand they proposed to stop trains around the Cuba Marsh there. I am concerned about not only the idling of the engines, but the idling of the traffic along Cuba Road while they are waiting for that stalled train. And if there was a hazmat spill, if those chemicals were to go into the Cuba marsh, that is part of the headway for the fox river valley basin watershed system, and I would caution you and remind you that that feeds a larger water system, if there is a hazmat spill, and CN safety record is outrageous, which STP has not looked at appropriately, I would encourage you to do so, of their poor record. Also, we have well, a major source of our water, along these EJ&E tracks, right now is well water. We don't get it from Lake Michigan, we don't get it from the Fox River, we get it from wells. A major hazmat spill would contaminate and affect thousands of people, and I would encourage you to look at CN poor safety record. Also, I would like you to look at the actual traffic patterns on Cuba Road and no 14. I don't know who performed the study this summer, but they had college kids just sitting there not doing anything, I don't even think they were counting cars. I would encourage you to perform the study yourselves, to see what a major east west route that is for commuters and how a stalled train across any of those intersections would cause great delays and people getting to and from work and that would also hurt productivity of our economy in this area. You need to look at the traffic patterns on Cuba Road and on 14 and the amount of stalled trains on those roads and the length of trains on those roads, the impact of idling cars and idling train engines around that area. The affect on the Cuba Marsh. The noise level of those trains. We currently have a quite zone along the EJ&E and that needs to be maintained. There are many many homes and those train horns do not need to be heard. We also have many many buses that need to cross those train tracks, so please look at that. My major concern is the hazmat spill and the fact that you're going to have the major mitigation paid by the Illionois tax payers. That is crazy. This is a foreign company, maybe with some major american investors, but a foregin company nonetheless. Taxpayers should not again have to foot the bill for another company. They can afford to do this mitigation if they want to buy the EJ&E tracks, and they need to do that. These small communities that are along the EJ&E, there is no way they can foot the bill. They are already operating on deficit budgets, they cannot fork more money over for their community to fix what this railroad is going to cost.