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CN-21

February 8, 2008

BY E-FILING

Anne K. Quinlan, Esquire
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: *Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation –
Control – EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)***

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

On January 25, 2008, Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) filed a request to extend the due date for its submission of comments, evidence, and argument from January 28, 2008, to February 11, 2008 (“Extension Motion”), on the grounds that IDOT had requested information from Canadian National Railway Company (“CNR”)¹ regarding actual and projected costs of maintaining a particular segment of CN’s tracks but had not yet received it. IDOT’s request was not timely filed under 49 C.F.R. § 1104.7(b), and has no legitimate basis. However, CN has no objection to IDOT filing comments as it has proposed if the Board is otherwise so disposed, so long as those comments are limited to matters related to Amtrak’s costs. Otherwise, the request should be denied.

IDOT has provided no basis for delay. First, IDOT has provided no support for its claim that the information identified in IDOT’s Extension Motion was or should be necessary for IDOT to “formulate its position” in this proceeding (Extension Motion at 3). IDOT’s claim is belied by the fact that it did not seek that (or any other) information through discovery. And IDOT has made no showing that the requested cost information is relevant to the fundamental transportation merits of the proposed transaction or any possible competitive issues.

¹ CNR and Grand Trunk Corporation (“GTC”) are referred to together as “Applicants.” Applicants and their railroad subsidiaries are referred to collectively as “CN.” Unless otherwise indicated, other abbreviated references used herein have the same meaning as those set forth in the Table of Abbreviations in the Application (CN-2 at 8-11).

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Anne K. Quinlan, Esquire

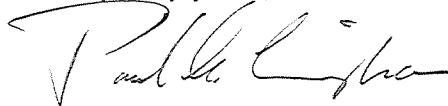
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Second, once CN learned of IDOT's interest, CN explained to IDOT that CN does not maintain the segmented cost information IDOT seeks, but that CN has undertaken to develop that information as part of its confidential negotiations with Amtrak. If IDOT wishes to estimate its potential future payments to Amtrak (which would include numerous elements having nothing to do with CN's costs), it should do so through its own discussions with Amtrak. But its desire to develop such an estimate is not pertinent to the Board's review of the transaction at issue here and is certainly not an adequate basis for delay of this proceeding.

Finally, because the Board has established March 13, 2008 as the fixed date by which CN must file its response, the requested delay in the filing of opening evidence or argument would severely prejudice CN if it were to encompass matters beyond those related to Amtrak's costs, which was IDOT's purported basis for its request for extension.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Cunningham", written over a horizontal line.

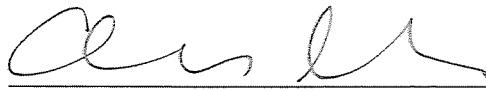
Paul A. Cunningham

Counsel for Canadian National Railway Company
and Grand Trunk Corporation

cc: All parties of record

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this 8th day of February, 2008, served copies of the foregoing letter, responding to Illinois Department of Transportation's Request for Extension of Time and designated as CN-21, upon all known parties of record in this proceeding by first-class mail or a more expeditious method.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine A. Mellen', written over a horizontal line.

Christine A. Mellen