



Environmental Impact Statement

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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 grew up in Thorton, Illinois, which is about 25 miles from here, there are 5 roads leading in and out of town, each road is crossed by a set of railroad tracks. There were times that you couldn't leave the town at all because all those tracks go into freight yards, just like the new one is gonna be going into this big box yard by Joliet. 5 mile long trains with stops with train crossings that are 3 1/2 miles apart means they're all stopped, all the time, for a half hour at a time, with 5 minute intervals occassionally. And this law about not having them blocked so emergency traffic can get through has been in effect for more years that I can even remember and I'm 51 and it didn't make any difference. You could drive, we were kids we had nothing to do, but try to get around the train. You could drive from one tracks to the next, to the next, and drive all the way around the town trying to get out, and could not get out. And that's exactly what it's going to be like here because there are no bridges, the tracks are old. Another thing also, the railroad tracks in all those areas needed repair from truck traffic, each year those tacks would be 4 and 5 inches sunk in the ground, so heres cars have to slow down too, to about 2 mph to crawl over them, and that's true with what you'll be going through here. You guys have no idea what you're in for. You only think you do, but you don't. It's gonna be 10 times worse. Drive over to Thorton and take a cruise, or call the Thorton mayor and find out what it's like over there, you might get an idea. Have fun.