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Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

January 28, 2008

Subject: Environmental Filing, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, owned and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is located next to the EJ&E railroad that the Canadian National Railway Company plans to purchase. In response to the draft scoping document that outlines the upcoming environmental impact study to be conducted with regard to the purchase of the EJ&E railroad, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory submits the following two concerns that should be addressed by the EIS:

1.) Increase in ground vibrations: Fermilab operates large, complex scientific instruments that are extremely sensitive to vibrations, including a 4-mile-circumference particle collider located in a tunnel about 10 feet below the ground. An increase in vibrations emitted from operating the EJ&E railroad line just east of the Fermilab site could have severe consequences for the operation of current as well as future particle accelerators and experiments at Fermilab.

We ask the Environmental Impact Study to

- identify the anticipated train traffic on the EJ&E line in the next 20 years,
- identify the effect that increased train traffic, potentially with longer and faster freight trains, will have on ground vibrations; and
- identify whether any adverse effects of vibrations on current and future experiments at Fermilab could be mitigated.

2.) Access to the site: Fermilab employs about 1,900 employees. The Fermilab site, about 6,800 acres in size, has three entrances. It has only one entrance on its eastern side via Batavia Road in Warrenville. This entrance is open to the public and also gives employees living east of Fermilab access to the site. The EJ&E railroad crosses Batavia Road at grade level just east of the Fermilab site. Increased train traffic could delay the daily commute of hundreds of employees.

We ask the Environmental Impact Study to:

- identify the anticipated train traffic in the next 20 years,
- identify the effect that increased train traffic could have on the at grade crossing on Batavia Road in Warrenville, and
- identify whether any adverse effects on site access and commute times could be mitigated.

Sincerely,

Kurt Riesselmann