

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 TOM MICK

11 AUGUST 25, 2008
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13 MATTESON HOLIDAY INN
14 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
15 MATTESON, ILLINOIS
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20 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

21 Telephone: 312-781-9111
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24 REPORTED BY: Robin Chimniak, 084-001999

1 Tom Mick, M-i-c-k. I'm with the
2 village of Park Forest. My address is 350
3 Victory Drive, Park Forest, Illinois 60046.

4 I don't know if it matters, but
5 I'm the village manager representing our
6 residents, and I'd like to submit comments
7 on the draft EIS that's coming up.

8 My first comment is the EIS
9 references a number of emergency operations
10 systems on page 45, Table ES2, and which
11 ones are adversely impacted by the proposed
12 acquisition. Park Forest is not listed.
13 It's hard for me to understand how our
14 community that's going to see an increase
15 of 400 percent of the number of trains, 500
16 percent increase in the number of cars and
17 tonnage, and an estimated 700 percent
18 increase in the transportation of hazardous
19 materials, how we could not be one of those
20 communities that's adversely impacted in
21 our emergency operations.

22 The EIS calls for a definition
23 of -- they call for mitigation of the
24 concerns of Park Forest, as set forth

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1 regarding Western Avenue and the crossing.
2 We'd ask that there be a better definition
3 of what mitigation is; clearly define what
4 it is.

5 Additionally, the STB suggests
6 the Canadian National and the village work
7 together to seek funds for a separated
8 crossing over Western Avenue through the
9 Department of Transportation. My question

10 is, why should we be petitioning the
11 Department of Transportation for taxpayer
12 dollars when we're talking about furthering
13 the bottom line for a private company?

14 On page ES5 of the draft study,
15 the STB talks about construction of a
16 section of new rail connection tracks, one
17 of which is in Park Forest. It further
18 discusses between the village of Park
19 Forest and Canadian National. To date
20 we've had one meeting on that topic;
21 clearly not to our satisfaction.

22 With regard to public
23 notification, public involvement, the
24 village had two meetings with Canadian

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1 National to talk about what are the adverse
2 impacts to our community. They took our
3 notes. It's our expectation they were
4 going to get back to us and have public
5 meetings with our residents. Those have
6 not taken place.

7 When it's all said and done,
8 Park Forest expects to be one of the most
9 adversely impacted communities of all the
10 communities on the EJ&E arc with regard to
11 traffic injection, environmental impacts,
12 adverse impacts in our commercial
13 development, noise levels, general quality
14 of life issues for our residents, safe

15 integration notion for emergency services
16 operations, and the impacts on School
17 District 163 and their busing operations.

18 We expect that there ought to be
19 some further discussions of mitigation. We
20 believe that the vast majority of our
21 issues can be rectified by a separated
22 crossing at Western Avenue. We believe
23 that that will be funded by private
24 dollars, not by tax dollars of Park Forest,

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1 taxpayers of the state of Illinois, or
2 federal taxpayers, when we're talking about
3 an impact that is being brought upon us for
4 the advancement of a private company's
5 bottom line.

6 (End of statement.)

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