



Village of Mokena

11004 Carpenter Street

Mokena, Illinois 60448

(708) 479-3900

Fax: (708) 479-4844

Email:

administration@mokena.org

Web Site: www.mokena.org

Village President

Joseph W. Werner

Village Clerk

Robyn Madden

Trustees

Debbie Engler

Donald D. Labriola

John J. Mazzorana

Jane McGinn

George J. Metanias

Joseph M. Siwinski

February 12, 2008

BY E-FILING

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball

Environmental Filing

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Ball:

I am writing to share the Village of Mokena's comments and request the STB's consideration of several items relative to Canadian National (CN) Railway's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern (EJ&E) Railroad.

As submitted in its proposal to the STB, CN plans to increase freight traffic on the EJ&E by a factor of four to five on the segment of track which borders our community on the south from Wolf Road to points west of 116th Avenue. If approved, the increased rail traffic generated by CN will significantly contribute to increased air pollution, noise, vibration, grade-crossing risk, hazardous materials risk, traffic congestion, and blockages of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian crossings.

Given the above-referenced negative impacts this acquisition will have on our community, we respectfully request that the STB condition approval of the acquisition on specified mitigation actions to be taken and paid for by CN, including but not limited to the following:

- Movement of the proposed transition point between double and single tracking from just east of the 116th Avenue crossing, west of Wolf Road, to a location lacking residential development that directly abuts the trackage on both sides. As currently configured in CN's plans, locomotives will be prone to idling along a stretch of track that is directly bounded on both sides by residential housing developments.
- Installation of quad gates or grade separations at the EJ&E's Wolf Road and 116th Avenue crossings.
- Installation of barriers such as sound walls (preferred option) or earthen berms along both sides of EJ&E trackage between Wolf Road and Schoolhouse Road to buffer adjacent



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residential areas from noise generated by increased freight traffic and idling locomotives.

- Installation of new, separate bicycle/pedestrian crossings with pedestrian gates at Wolf Road and 116th Avenue.
- Allocation of defined resources to address increased risks associated with the transport of additional volumes of hazardous material along EJ&E trackage and provision of a written plan detailing how hazardous waste spills between Wolf Road and Schoolhouse Road will be handled.

We further respectfully request at this time that due diligence be made to ensure that study of the environmental impacts that necessitate the above mitigation actions be duly included within the scope of the upcoming EIS.

Please enter these comments and requests for consideration into the official record relative to this proposed acquisition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Werner
Village President



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have on this 12th day of February, 2008, served copies of this letter upon all known parties of record in this proceeding by first-class mail or a more expeditious method.

Joseph W. Werner

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