



HOFFMAN ESTATES

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

William D. McLeod
MAYOR

May 28, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Subject: STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
- Control - EJ&E West Company

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

On behalf of the Village of Hoffman Estates, I urge you to deny the Canadian National's (CN) request for establishment of a time limit for the environmental review and decision in the above referenced case. CN's request is for completion of the Draft EIS by July 15, 2008 followed by a sequence of other review dates, leading to a decision by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on December 2, 2008.

Significant time and effort has been expended by all parties, not the least of which by the STB, in soliciting, preparing, receiving, and processing input on the draft scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). With the recent release of the Final Scope of the EIS, the next task is the careful and thorough evaluation of the items included in this scope, leading to the release of a Draft EIS followed by a public review and comment period. I do not agree with or understand how a request for an expedited timeline for release of a Draft EIS and STB decision will be fair, equitable, or in keeping with the requirements of a proper environmental study. In fact, I believe all are aware of the unprecedented level of interest the proposed acquisition generated, as well as the breadth and depth of issues that will need to be studied during development of the Draft EIS. Adequate time for public review and comment is central to this process as well. This process should proceed in an unbiased and thoughtful manner, without constraints imposed by a predetermined date desired by the Applicant by which the technical study and Board decision needs to be completed.

I respectfully request that the STB deny the Applicant's request for establishment of a timeline for the environmental evaluation and decision for this proposed transaction. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

William D. McLeod
Village President