

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 JULIAN F. ALEXANDER, SR.

11 JANUARY 15, 2008

12 HOLIDAY INN

13 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE

14 MATTESON, ILLINOIS

15 Surface Transportation Board

16 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

17 Log and Distribution

18 Date Recd: _____

19 JDN File No. _____ ✓

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23 Cc. Original Job File

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25 **HDR**

26 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

27 Telephone: 312-781-9111

28 REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

1 MR. ALEXANDER: Julian, J-u-l-i-a-n,
2 F. Alexander, Sr.

3 I got some comments that I had just
4 made up some comments when I was at work because
5 I was very concerned about the railroad tracks
6 since they are adjacent to our subdivision. I'm
7 very concerned about the safety of the
8 subdivision in case of any kind of accidents on
9 those tracks. I am very concerned about the
10 materials that will be going on the tracks. Are
11 we talking hazmat material. Are we talking
12 nuclear waste material. Are we talking food.
13 I'm very concerned about that.

14 I'm also very concerned about the
15 impact that it has on our village as far as our
16 homes, the quality of our homes, the pricing of
17 our homes, the taxes of our homes. I'm concerned
18 about that too.

19 I'm also concerned about the noise
20 level that will be affected. If the railroad is
21 willing to put up a sound wall or if they'll
22 willing to put up a berm to keep the noise down
23 from impact of the subdivision.

24 I'm also concerned about the traffic

1 that will be impacted on Cicero Avenue. Cicero
2 Avenue is our only north-south street. It runs
3 adjacent to -- well, it runs over the tracks.
4 And I'm concerned that on an emergency situation,
5 we have hospitals to the north of us, what will
6 we be dealing with as far as train traffic. Will
7 the trains be sitting on the tracks for any
8 length of time because I realize that these
9 trains when you are in a switching mode, they sit
10 and block traffic for long periods of time.

11 I understand they pay fines, but
12 fines to the railroad is like water to a car
13 wash. Some of it hits the car. Some of it
14 doesn't. So it's a cost of doing business and
15 I'm very concerned about that.

16 I'm also concerned about the -- if
17 there's food being traveled along those tracks
18 such as grain in grain cars. We have field mice
19 that turn into field rats. And sometimes in rail
20 yards, you see rats as big as possums, so I'm
21 concerned about that because that do happen.

22 I'm also concerned about the
23 maintenance on the track. Tracks have been there
24 a while. What will the maintenance be. Can they

1 take that kind of train activity.

2 I'm worried about our homes in the
3 subdivision with that many trains going across
4 because I understand we do three trains and in
5 five years how many trains will be going across
6 that track. And will those homes that sit less
7 than 100 feet away from the track be able to
8 withstand that kind of activity, the vibration,
9 the ground and all of that.

10 So I have a few concerns. And I'm
11 not really for the railroad, but I am for
12 improvement. If that's what it costs, then we
13 need to make some changes. We need over, under
14 pass at Cicero for traffic to go through. We
15 need a retainer wall to keep the noise down. We
16 need to have railroad police maintaining a
17 constant flow on those tracks because when you
18 have a high school, grammar school that close to
19 railroad crossings, you usually have kids playing
20 around trains. And we don't need someone saying
21 my child was killed by a train. So there are
22 some major concerns. My concern is that no one
23 is here to really answer those questions. But
24 thank you for taking my comment.