



Environmental Impact Statement



CN EJ&E

Scoping Comment for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Comment Form

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at the public open house scoping meeting, or follow the directions on the reverse side of this sheet to mail your comments.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a member of the project team or court reporter at this public open house scoping meeting, or call the toll-free project information line: 1-800-347-0689.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, under the heading "E-Filing."

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. Comments must be submitted by February 1, 2008.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Date Recd: _____

HDR File No: _____

Scanned (Initial): _____

STAECT #: _____

Cc: Original - Job File

HDR

What scoping meeting did you attend? (Please circle): Mundelein, Barrington, Joliet, Matteson, Gary, West Chicago, Chicago.

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

Comments provided by the public help determine the scope of the environmental review.

Name: JOHN A. WHITMER TRUSTEE

Address: 234 N OAK

City, State, Zip: BARTLETT IL 60103

Date: 02/06/08

February 6, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Phillis,

My name is John Whitmer and I am a Trustee for the Bartlett Fire Protection District. We did meet briefly at a meeting in West Chicago, Illinois.

I would like to comment on the situation that we are facing here in Bartlett! As you know the Fire District did pass a resolution against the purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by the Canadian National.

We are in the process of building a third station less than a Quarter of a mile from a grade crossing on the EJ&E. The current proposal would seriously effect our response times from this station to the west side of the tracks where more than 5,000 residents reside. We are being told that the number of trains will increase from five per day to twenty-three. I believe that is a conservative number! I believe that translates into a 15 percent chance of a train blocking that crossing!

Having a Underpass or Overpass At the West Bartlett Road crossing is of the very highest priority for the Fire District and those 5,000 residents who reside on the west side of the tracks.

Statistics show that for every minute that passes in a life threatening emergency 15% of your chance of surviving is lost! At FOUR MINIUTES BRAIN DAMAGE BEGINS.
Need I say more!

FIRE DOUBLES IN SIZE EVERY MINUTE.

Also traffic and industrial accidents!

OUR PRIORITY IS LIFE SAFETY over traffic flow!

Page 2

Another major concern of mine is the switching at Munger Road, this has the possibility of blocking route 59, Munger Road and Stearns road at the same time do to the length of the trains. Route 59 is already a major north south route for our emergency Vehicles, not to mention the 45,000 vehicles that use this road daily. Munger Road will become a north south route for our emergency vehicles soon to be responding from our new station!

I know there will be major push for an overpass or underpass at Stearns Road crossing. A few facts to be considered, only a few homes west of tracks. Most of land to the west of tracks at Stearns Road is a State Park! Please consider LIFE SAFETY.

I do not know of all the current technology that exists, but it seems with GPS we should be able to receive information on when and where the trains are in relation to our area.

Please consider an overpass or underpass at the West Bartlett Road Crossing for use by all emergency personal and the 5,000 citizens that live on the west side of the tracks.

REMBER OUR PRIORITY IS LIFE SAFETY!

Respectfully,


John Whitmer Trustee