



Environmental Impact Statement

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.

See detailed comments attached.

Surface Transportation Board

CN, E, & E FIS - FD-35087

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FOR

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: Kenneth H. Okolowitz

Address: 3216 CAROLINE Drive

City, State, Zip: JOLIET, IL 60435-1110

Date: JANUARY 28, 2008

SCOPING COMMENTS

The following scoping comments STRONGLY opposing the proposed CANADIAN NATIONAL Railway Company acquisition of the ELGIN, JOLIET and EASTERN Railway Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087) are herewith provided by MR & MRS Kenneth G. and Patricia A. Okolowitz. We are and have been for 48 years, a homeowner and residents of Pinecrest Subdivision at 3216 CAROLINE Drive, JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435-1110, Plainfield Township.

Our major concerns in opposing this acquisition are as follows:

1. The significant number and sizeable increase in the number of trains using the railway each day.
2. The increase in noise pollution due to the increased number of trains each day including whistles and horns.
3. The expected reduction in property values for the 110 homeowners in Pinecrest Subdivision.
4. Major traffic delays at two railway crossings near Pinecrest Subdivision on Division Street and on Essington Road, and at the crossing on Gaylord Road.
5. Impact of the traffic delays on police, ambulance, fire and other emergency vehicles, as well as school busses.
6. Adverse impact on wildlife living adjacent to or near the railway tracks.

A brief comment on each of the above concerns follows; however, the severe impact cannot be fully described at this time.

- The significant increase in the number of trains per day can be as much as 26.6 trains. Added to the existing number of trains now using this system, the resultant number could approach possibly 40-45 trains per day. This could tie up grade crossings for all motor vehicles (and pedestrians as well) for significant periods of time.
- It should be noted that the Division Street is used throughout the entire day and night by the Illinois State Police who use this street in responding to the many accidents and other emergencies on Interstate 55. Train traffic could severely impact their response to such emergencies.

Similarly, ambulances and fire trucks would be stopped or delayed causing possible life or death situations.

- The noise from rumbling trains (especially the empty westbound unit coal trains - 120 cars in length) is horrendous coupled with the horns and whistles which are sounded almost constantly as the trains pass along the north side of Pinecrest Subdivision (both day and night).

The vibration caused by these trains causes dishes and glassware to vibrate in the cupboards of all of the homes in Pinecrest Subdivision.

- At this point in time, it is impossible to estimate the impact of the increase in train traffic on the property values of all of the homes in Pinecrest Subdivision; however, there is no doubt that home values will drop sharply.

- The impact on wildlife living adjacent to or near the existing railway tracks has already been demonstrated.

Prior to the sizeable increase in the number of trains per day when the Union Pacific Railroad System began using the EJ and E tracks, there was a significant deer, fox and pheasant population; however these have all completely disappeared. The remaining wildlife, including Cooper Hawks, Red Tail Hawks, rabbits and coyotes will probably disappear as well with a further increase in train traffic.

There may well be more adverse effects, unknown at this time, with the proposed increase in the number of trains proposed in this acquisition.

IN summary and in just a few words - DENY THIS ACQUISITION for the sake of us humans. Do NOT YIELD to the desires of CN. As stated on Page 2 of the fact sheet, CN wants to acquire EJ & E solely for their benefit - NOT the benefit of all those who would be adversely affected.

FAX Transmission

Number of pages including cover sheet 4

Attention: PHILIP S JOHNSON TRALL Ad/00
VICLI ROUSON

Date: 01-29-08

Company: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

From: M.R. KENWETH OKOLOWITZ

Phone: (202) 245-0324

Company: Resident - Homeowner

Project SUBDIVISION, PLAINFIELD TWP. IL

Fax: (202) 245-0454

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Comments: RESPONSE TO PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF ESTE BYCN.

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