

January 15, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Canadian National Railroad
Village of Frankfort Mayor Jim Holland

Re: Railroad Purchase

01715, 011508, Gatlin. PCT2.60423. O.Y.
12th

See Comment form

01680, 012008, Gatlin. PCT2.60423.
O.N. CF

We moved our family to Frankfort, Illinois to give our children a better life, sinking our entire life savings into building our dream home which we were finally able to accomplish in 2002. We chose a lot in the Sandalwood Estates Subdivision after carefully researching the effects the E J & E Railroad which our property backs directly up to would have on our family. We found that E J & E Railroad runs between four to seven trains daily and were told that the main item being transported was coal. Incidentally we were lied to by our builder, Casto Builders that the developer of the subdivision was going to be erecting some sort of barrier between the railroad and all of the lots on Tea Tree Lane. Our family did not have a problem with the trains running through our back yard because we both grew up around trains and because we were assured that a barrier would be erected by the developer. We were also being considerate of our neighbors in building on this lot due to the fact that we had two dogs and didn't want to burden the neighbors who would be located behind us. The developer never erected a barrier and Casto Builders denies ever telling us this lie.

We have E J & E's emergency phone number as well as Frankfort Police Departments phone number stored in our phones and regularly call both due to children constantly walking the rails and crossing the tracks using the lots on Tea Tree Lane as a thoroughfare as well as people riding ATV's up and down the railroad tracks. By the time anyone from E J & E or Frankfort P.D. respond to the problem they are gone or have moved down to another area.

We have put a lot of money into our property including building an in ground swimming pool and planting trees and flowers on the "berm" that sits below the railroad tracks. This "berm" was overgrown with poison ivy and weeds. My family has cleaned up neighbors "berms" upon their request because we did so much work beautifying our "berm" and it really makes a difference.

We are totally devastated to hear of the developments that have transpired in the purchase of E J & E by Canadian National! We are going to have to sell the house we worked so hard to get and take a loss on it. We would not be able to continue living in our home with twenty-eight to thirty trains moving through our backyard every day with no type of barrier to separate it. We are talking about thirty feet between the railroad tracks and the end of our backyard not a quarter acre, half acre or acre, we are talking feet. We would not be able to enjoy the swimming pool we installed or even sitting in our backyard or opening up a window in the house. We planned on retiring in this beautiful community in our beautiful home but that dream has become a nightmare and will never be a reality because we will move out of Frankfort as will a lot of other residents.

Please consider all of the families that will be affected by the purchase. Families will lose everything they have worked so hard for, not to mention emergency response being cut down due to train crossings and excessive noise that will affect a lot of people.

Is Canadian National interested in buying our home? Please contact us directly.

Sincerely,

Bruce & Maria Gatlin

Bruce and Maria Gatlin
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Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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