

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
4
5
6
7

8 STATEMENT OF:
9 ED SPRINGER
10 AUGUST 27, 2008
11
12

13 BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
14 616 WEST MAIN STREET
15 BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS
16
17

18 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO
19 Telephone: 312-781-9111
20
21

22 REPORTED BY: Donna M. Kazaitis, 084-003145
23
24

1 MR. SPRINGER: My name is Ed Springer,
2 S-S-P-R-I-N-G-E-R.
3 I have lived in the Barrington area
4 for over thirty years. I'm an attorney by

5 profession, but I speak out tonight not as an
6 attorney but as a father and a grandfather. My
7 oldest grandson is six, and he just finished his
8 first two days in the first grade.

9 Rather than addressing the several
10 technical issues, I will rely on those being so
11 eloquently handled by my neighbors in the
12 community.

13 There is a train crossing in a
14 nearby community. Not too long ago a Metra train
15 traveling at a high rate of speed collided with
16 the back of a school bus carrying students to
17 school.

18 In remembrance of the victims the,
19 place of this tragedy is designated Seven Angels
20 Crossing.

21 Today our school district reports
22 at least 840 rail crossings by school buss per
23 day. Add to this the additional crossings
24 carrying students to and from their after school

3

1 activities.

2 Add to that the number of other
3 school districts affected by the proposed
4 purchase.

5 The risk of similar tragedies is
6 dramatically increased by the proposed increase in
7 the number of trains.

8 The increase risk is acknowledged
9 in the report, but to fully appreciate the risk
10 involved, you must visit Seven Angels Crossing to

11 visualize the tragedy, to feel the horror, the
12 fear and pain of the victims and their families.

13 I remember the newspaper account
14 reported that the rear end of the bus was on the
15 tracks when the train traveling at a high rate of
16 speed approached. Students in back of the bus
17 scrambled forward to get out of the way of the
18 collision.

19 The collision caused the bus to
20 separate from the frame. Good samaritans on the
21 scene rushed to help. One such good samaritan who
22 ran to the scene from a nearby cafe where she was
23 having her morning coffee reported that she held
24 one victim in her arms so that he was not alone

4

1 when he passed.

2 That's Seven Angels Crossing. How
3 many more similar tragedies are waiting to happen?

4 For myself and my neighbors in the
5 community, I don't want to have to read about or,
6 worse yet, experience any such tragedies. I don't
7 want my grandchildren or anyone else needlessly
8 exposed to such.

9 I say to CN withdraw your plan and
10 don't come back unless and until you will include
11 a reasonable and affordable plan of mitigation of
12 the risks. I'm done.

13

14

15

16

SPRINGER82708.txt

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

□