

Other Submissions

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Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #: -35087 - -

Subject: * CN and EJ &E
First Name: * DIANE
Middle Name: M
Last Name: * GARCEA
Address: * 12 BOW LANE

City: * BARRINGTON HILLS
State: * ILLINOIS
Zip Code: * 60010-
Email Address: * dgarcea@comcast.net
Group/Affiliation: fight rail congestion
Message:

As a resident and home owner in Barrington Hills, Illinois I strongly oppose Canadian National's bid to acquire EJ &E railroad and run it thru our community. Were this to go thru it would be devastating to this area..for many reasons.

Safety...these trains hauling dangerous chemicals in such close proximity to homes, schools and businesses -not a good idea. The idea scares me to death.

Safety at crossings-increased railroad traffic increases the odds of accidents at crossings. (There are crossings near schools and neighborhoods).

Currently traffic in downtown Barrington is a nightmare when the commuter trains come thru, all traffic on the major feeder roads thru this area come to a complete stop. (Barrington Rd/rt. 59 and Lake Cook Rd/Main St.).

Adding freight trains, with waits of 15 to 20 minutes or more, twenty and more times in one day would be disastrous. When the trains go thru this downtown area, all the major roads are cut off...so fire, police and medical emergency people would also be cut off from getting out or into this area. This is no exaggeration.

This route is the only way for my husband to go to work. I cross these same tracks at least 4 to 6 times on any given day.

By the nature of this area, which is rural and spread out, without numerous side streets and alternate routes, there would be no other way to go to avoid the trains. I lived in the Park Ridge/Des Plaines/Rosemont area for 25 years

and for all those years struggled with the freight trains of CN. The mayor of Des Plaines, Tony Arredia, who is also President of the Northwest Municipal Conference talked about this CN sale and said "...it would mean a significant decrease in the traffic tie-ups.(referring to Des Plaines area). This area has been besieged by long, slow moving trains...If I lived in Barrington I wouldn't be happy." Mr. Arredia speaks from twenty years of experience. Those of us in Barrington and Barrington Hills are not being "selfish" as CN stated in their comments as printed in the Chicago Tribune

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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today.(2-13-08). We are defending and trying to preserve our community and our homes. This area is unique because residents and our city governments made a very conscious decision to protect and preserve the natural environment. As a result, vanishing ecco systems survive and thrive out here...prairies, savannah, marshes, forest preserves, vast open spaces. This is not the place to put a freight train yard. The current businesses in downtown Barrington are struggling to survive with the current problems posed by the commuter trains. Adding 20 to 30 freight trains per day would do them in. So, along with the total and complete gridlock that would ensue, The business district of Barrington would be destroyed. We are in real danger of not even having a downtown anymore.

Today in the Chicago Tribune(2-13-08) there is another quote by Canadian National stating that they would expect the American taxpayers to bear some of the costs to improve various crossing grades. Excuse me, but we are in desperate need of road improvements out here, and there is no money for that, so where would this money come from? We don't want CN here and then they expect us to pay for them to come thru here-wrecking our communities, our homes and our lives? That is insane. That is slick and underhanded, but how brilliant on their part...they have the billions at their disposal, we are the already overburdened taxpayers. Doesn't seem quite fair.

Does the financial aspirations of a multi-billion dollar company outweigh the welfare and well being of thousands of individuals and the communities and the environment in which we live?

Please do the right thing.

Thank you,

Diane Garcea