



CN | EJ&E

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.

In the midst of a luncheon for Habitat For Humanity volunteers Molly Hartzog begins coughing uncontrollably & excuses herself. Upon returning once composed Molly apologizes & says she has a respiratory condition from a chemical spill in Bogalusa or Frankston, LA. The town evacuated but several were nonetheless inflicted with a respiratory condition for life.

The above was a true account from my Habitat trip in Oct. 2007. Barrington residents do not want to be in the same sort of danger if CN is allowed to purchase the EJ&E Railroad. We understand the 1 1/2 mile long trains might carry hazardous materials combined with the less than impressive safety record of CN.

Why put us in danger? Fears of danger? Possibly deadly danger just to allow free trade and the comeback of the Railway system?

Surface Transportation Board

N-EJ&E EIS - FD-3508

Planning and Distribution

Revised: _____

STB File No: _____

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

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

Name: Patsy Thalheiser
Address: 521 Lake Shore Dr. No.
City, State, Zip: Barrington, IL 60010
Date: 1/25/08

Date:

Our health and safety is getting railroaded

Michael Deering is director of communications at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital.

People who work in healthcare and medicine — particularly in trauma and emergency medicine — derive great satisfaction from helping desperately sick and injured people in our communities. It's not a job to them so much as it is a calling. They love what they do, and their first priority is to do what's right for their patients.

That's why at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital we're so concerned about the Canadian National Railway's plans to purchase the EJ&E line and run some 29 trains through the heart of the Barrington communities each day. There will be significantly negative consequences. This is the most important issue that this community has faced, and it will forever change the character of our town. We're not exaggerating when we say, lives can — and very likely will be lost through this proposition.

Good Shepherd is a Level II Trauma Center, and that means that we handle all but the most dire cases. Our emergency department handled 750 serious trauma cases last year. Approximately a third of ambulance runs from the area to Good Shepherd originated on the other side of the EJ&E tracks. A trauma patient has what's called the "golden hour," from the time of significant injury to treatment. This is the window of opportunity when their chances of survival are best.

Many trauma cases are vehicle collisions, and as you know, it takes an accident to be responded to, police and fire teams to arrive, assess the victims, work to extricate them, and call for an ambulance. The victims are then transported here, all while the golden hour's clock is ticking. It often leaves our doctors, surgeons and trauma nurses with precious little time on their side to treat the victims in the "golden hour." If their ambulance sits waiting for an extra 10 to 15 minutes for a freight train, their lives are compromised. If they're hemorrhaging, they could very well bleed out waiting for the tracks to clear. They'll be literally hemmed in by these rolling barriers, unable to reach the hospital west- or northbound through town.

And, Illinois law states that for Good Shepherd to serve as a trauma center, its surgeons and specialists must be able to arrive within 30

minutes of a trauma. If the physicians are on the wrong side of the tracks, they will not be able to arrive in time to help.

Members of our ER are all too familiar with another danger posed by train traffic. Many were here in October 1995, working to save the lives of Fox River Grove children after a train tore through their school bus, killing seven and seriously injuring 24. It was heartbreaking, and they'll never forget it. The Barrington School Board reports that school buses cross the EJ&E line nearly 400 times per day.

Heart disease is the number one killer in Illinois, and the reason we established our outstanding, state-of-the-art cardiac care center, considered by many to be the finest in the region. If a person has a heart attack in downtown Barrington, they're just 10 minutes from Good Shepherd's ER and cardiac center. But, if their ambulance's path is blocked by a freight train, they're 13 miles and 23 minutes from Northwest Community and 12 miles and 22 minutes from Sherman — the next two closest accessible hospitals with comprehensive cardiac capability.

If the victim is in cardiac arrest, it's a fact that every minute treatment is delayed, it increases the likelihood of mortality by 10 percent. If they wait just five minutes for a freight train to pass — as CN representatives at the hearing boasted would be the best case scenario — the victim faces a 50/50 proposition that they're not going to see another day. This is to say nothing of the fact that paramedics might not even be able to reach many of our citizens, who'll now find themselves literally on the wrong side of the tracks. If the best case is that CN's 1.5 mile-long trains only take five minutes to cross six Barrington intersections, the proposed 29 trains will block our roads for two hours and 40 minutes of every day.

Many in the emergency room can look back to instances when Barrington women arrived by car just in time to give birth in the ER. Babies were even delivered in our parking lot as they pulled up. Imagine how long 10 minutes will feel parked in front of crossing gates while experiencing full contractions. And, the CN's plan is to run more than one train on the average of every hour of the day and night through the heart of our town.

See ESSAY, page 17

This article voices my opinion even better

Don't put us in danger!

ESSAY

Continued from page 13

There's also the issue of asthma. Just in 2006, our emergency room cared for 140 asthmatic attack patients, the majority of them, children. With the quadrupling of locomotives literally in people's backyards, we'll get an intimate understanding of why many environ-

mentalists refer to them as "smokestacks on rails." Diesel locomotives are the single largest source of fine particulate matter in the United States; it's one of the top triggers for asthmatics. The increase in air pollution will result in more asthma attacks. And, asthma kills. The irony is that the very rail traffic that causes more asthma attacks in children may also be the same freight trains

that bar them from reaching the hospital in time. That's a frightening one-two punch for their safety.

In its own application, CN insists this transaction "will have no adverse safety effects." Considering the realities, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital respectfully disagrees. This community faces very real public health and safety threats from the Canadian National Railway.

GRAFF

Continued from page 16

parent involvement. New family registration for the 2008-09 Academic Year begins on Jan. 28.

Citizens for Conservation

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the Citizens for Conservation will host a program about coyotes at 9:30 a.m. at Vehe Farm (23570 W. Cuba Road, Deer Park). Chris Anchor of the Cook County Forest Preserve, who has been studying coyote populations in

Chicago's northwest suburbs for many years, will be making the presentation. There is no admission charge but a donation will be gratefully accepted at the door.

The group's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Barrington Area Library. Don Coursey, popular professor from the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago will provide a thought-provoking presentation, "Operation Lifeboat: What gets saved?"

Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program from 7-8:30 p.m.

Consider bringing a donation of any of the following supplies for our friends at Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation and Barnswallow, A Wild Bird Concern, to support their rehabilitation work: paper towels, bleach, anti-bacterial dish soap, wipes and spray, chemical-free laundry detergent, fleece blankets and nuts in the shell.

RSVPs are appreciated at Citizens for Conservation: (847) 382-SAVE (7283), Barrington resident **Sam Oliver** and Fox Point neighbor **Jane Hansen** are among those active in this worthwhile organization.

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