



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

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Section of Environmental Analysis

1

April 30, 2008

Anne E. Haaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

RE: Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E West Company (IHPA Log # 022010708)

Dear Ms. Haaker,

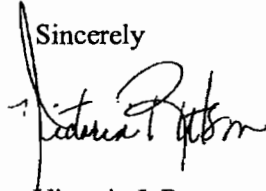
Thank you for your letter dated January 24, 2008 requesting additional documentation on the proposed acquisition by Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (letter attached). The transaction would include about 120 miles of existing track in an arc extending around Chicago from Waukegan, Illinois to Gary, Indiana. We have just completed the final Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and are in the early stages of preparing the EIS, including developing the information that you have requested.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, we are conducting field surveys in the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Since the majority of the proposal by CN is focused on modifying rail operations, the APE is limited to the location of proposed construction either on existing right-of-way (ROW) or on property acquired for such construction. Therefore, the APE includes the area of six new rail connections the locations of proposed siding extensions, and those locations where a second mainline track (double track) is proposed to be constructed (see Figure 1 attached). The results of field surveys of areas affected by construction will be documented, and reports and recommendations on eligibility, as appropriate, will be disseminated to your office upon completion. Given the level of urban development in the area, it is anticipated that the potential for archaeological deposits is low.

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is responsible for coordinating environmental services including complying with Section 106 of the NHPA, on behalf of the Board. HDR Engineering, Inc. is serving as the third party contractor to the Board supporting SEA in the preparation of the EIS. A representative from HDR will be in contact with your office to organize a meeting as soon as possible at a mutually convenient time. Phillis Johnson-Ball of my staff is serving as SEA's Project Manager for the proceedings. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Phillis Johnson-Ball at (202) 245-0304 (phillis.johnson-ball@stb.dot.gov). I can be reached at 202-245-0295 (vicki.rutson@stb.dot.gov).

We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely



Victoria J. Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

Cc: Phillis Johnson-Ball, STB
Barry Wharton, HDR Engineering, Inc

Enclosures: (2)

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes the location of construction activity either on existing right-of-way (ROW) or on property acquired for such construction. Specifically this includes:

- New rail connections planned at
 - Munger, Illinois -- 1800 feet of new track
 - Joliet, Illinois -- 2100 feet of new track
 - Matteson, Illinois -- 1600 feet of new track
 - Griffith, Illinois -- 1200 feet of new track
 - Ivanhoe, Indiana – 1800 feet of new track
 - Kirk Yard in Indiana – 1200 feet of new track
- Double track or siding track extensions planned at
 - Leighton, extending the existing siding approximately 2.3 miles
 - A 10.1 mile long segment of double track between the west end of East Siding and the east end of Walker Siding, connecting the existing 0.4 mile siding at East Siding, the existing 1.4 mile siding at Normantown, and the existing 1.5 mile siding at Walker with new track
 - Reinstallation of second main track (double track) between East Joliet and Frankfort, of approximately 9.9 miles.

Additional information on the Proposed Acquisition can be found on SEA's website for the environmental review of the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin Joliet and Eastern railway Company at: <http://www.stbfinancedocket35087.com/>; and on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov/>.

