



Environmental Impact Statement



CN | EJ&E

Voicemail Transcript

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed
Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the
Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company
STB Finance Docket No. 35087**

File	082308_Wieland.wav	Date	08/23/08 11:27 AM	Transcribed by	WK
F. Name	Jared	L. Name	Wieland		
Title	Business			Dept	
Address	542 Aberdeen Road				
Address 2					
City	Frankfort	State	IL	Zip	60423

Transcript:

As far as the statement, I guess I'm supposed to leave that now. Um, the proposed transaction of the environmental study do not, are not a positive thing for me and my family and our community and a lot of communities along the railroad. They're talking about drastically changing the way that this, this train track that goes right past our house is going to be used. When I bought the house, there were 7 trains a day that were smaller sized trains. The proposed change is going to make that quadruple at a minimum and the trains are going to double in size, so I'm going to experience an 800% increase at a minimum in noise, vibration, and pollution from the trains. That is a drastic change, it is not a small or minor change, from what I understand. CN and the DEIS have not addressed any mitigation for me or pretty much anybody along the route, uh I find that ludicrous. The impact, also is going to affect, um emergency response. The numerous grade crossings that nobody has addressed as far as how the billions of dollars are supposed to come about. CN is not offering and the STB apparently is not insisting that they would pay for any of the billions of dollars. I know Frankfort sure as heck doesn't have the money for the grade crossings that they have. Um the other communities along the route, I would imagine are in the same state and the State of Illinois is in a huge fiscal deficit. As far as I know, the Federal government's the same. So, I don't see how, uh making a large change to the way this track is used and then not requiring the company that's going to be doing that makes any sense; to throw that on the taxpayers, they are going to make the change to the way the railway is used that it is going to cause all of these billions of dollars needed for sound, vibration, mitigation, grade changes, and the like it is, it should be their responsibility to take care of that because it's their actions that is going to cause that the need for that to be done. So um, not as concessive a statement as I would like to have left, but um, hopefully you get my point. Um, I'm going to mail you a written statement as well. Uh, but basically the summary of that is that me and my family are going to experience an 800% at a minimum, assuming they just do what they're saying they're doing, which this sale transaction is not going to put a cap on them so that they could increase it by 2400% the traffic that goes by my house if they put in additional tracks which nothing would stop them from doing. So, I'm going to go from having 7 trains, so basically one train every 4 hours, I'm going to go to having 1 every 45 minutes around the clock, that's ludicrous without them doing any mitigation of the sound, the vibration, the pollution, the rail-the road crossings. Uh, it's estimated that my property value is going to drop by 25%, um which means that the \$400,000 home that I have, I'm going to lose \$100,000 in value and I certainly can't afford that. Um, and then the taxpayers supposedly are going to have to flip the bill for billions of dollars in grade changes and other mitigation. So, it's not right. There's no big picture help to America from this transaction. The only thing that it's going to do is allow Canadian National to re-route their trains around Chicago, so they don't get bogged down in the city, so it's going to make them more competitive and allow them to be more profitable. The fact that they can move their goods more quickly from Canada down to the ports, uh, they're not even stopping in Chicago, um it's not going to have any benefits to the local community at all and I can't see any benefit to the national community either. It just doesn't make any sense, it really doesn't. Um, there's this supposedly the benefit that it will reduce the congestion in Chicago and those cities that are experiencing a lot of trains right

now will have a reduction, that is true, but from what I understand, CN Railroad has admitted that within two years any routes that they had given up and moved out to the EJ&E, those will be back-filled by other rail passengers, so it's going to be incredibly detrimental to all the communities along...<cut off>