

EO-1019



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

August 18, 2008

The Honorable Elaine Nekritz
Illinois State Representative – 57th District
24 South Des Plaines River Road
Suite 400
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and
Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E West Company

Dear Representative Nekritz:

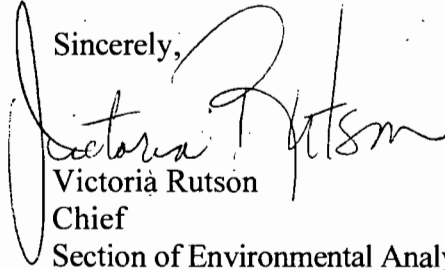
Thank you for your August 5, 2008 letter requesting that the Surface Transportation Board schedule additional public meeting(s) in northwest suburban Chicago near one of the existing Canadian National (CN) rail lines that would see a decrease in train traffic should the Board approve CN's application to acquire the EJ&E. You explain that you represent several communities in this area and have heard that many of your constituents would like to attend a meeting located closer to this CN rail line.

Currently, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is hosting eight public meetings in the project area to receive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including one meeting at Loyola University in downtown Chicago. In addition to the public meetings, members of the public may submit comments by letter, by calling the project hotline (1-800-347-0689), or by submitting a comment electronically via the E-Filing button on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov). Every comment will be treated equally, no matter the means by which the comment is submitted.

CN's proposal would decrease train traffic on five CN lines that feed into Chicago. Much as we would like to, it would be very difficult for SEA to host meetings in communities on all five CN lines in addition to the EJ&E line. We chose the eight meeting locations to provide the opportunity for as many members of the public to attend as possible. But even if some interested citizens cannot attend a meeting, I believe that we have offered a number of ways in which the public may still submit comments. We are hoping that everyone interested in submitting comments on the Draft EIS will be able to do so easily and comfortably. Finally, all materials available at the public meetings will be posted on the project website, www.stbfinancedocket35087.com.

I have entered your letter into the public record for this proceeding. We welcome your participation and that of your constituents. Again, thank you for your correspondence. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 245-0295.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson", is written over the printed name and title.

Victoria Rutson
Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis