

To: Phillis Johnson-Ball
 STB Finance Docket No. 35087
 Surface Transportation Board
 395 E Street, S. W.
 Washington, DC 20423-0001

Date: 09/9/2008

From: Simon F. Vollmer
 4 McGregor Court
 Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

Re: Proposed Canadian National Railway Company acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company

Dear Phillis Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed Canadian National Railway Company acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railway Company.

I am very concerned about the impact to the communities along the EJ&E railway. I attended the public meeting in Barrington, IL on August 27, 2008. This meeting was very informative and highlighted many, many issues on the proposed acquisition.

I believe the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) has many incorrect assumptions and findings are not accurate. I request the SEA reviews all the issues with the DEIS highlighted at the public meetings.

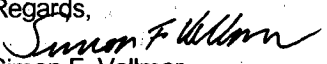
The proposed acquisition will directly affect my family's daily life. First, the nearest emergency response unit must cross the EJ&E crossing to get to our home. Any delay in an emergency response could be tragic. Second, my daily commutes to and from work (over EJ&E crossing at Old McHenry road) will incur traffic delays and increased fuel usage. This will also increase pollution in our community. Third, my two son's bus route to and from school must cross the EJ&E. This is a safety concern with increased train traffic, traffic delays causing late class starts and potential economic effects. Last, May Whitney Elementary and Lake Zurich High School grounds are within 500 feet of the EJ&E tracks. Children crossing the tracks will be at risk. Noise pollution and potential hazardous material spills so close to children at school is not acceptable.

In summary, my concerns include the following:

- Safety: Increased emergency response time due to the increased number of trains and increased length of trains. Safety of children going to and from school crossing the track.
- Traffic congestion and delays around our communities due to the increased number of trains and increased length of trains.
- Air quality / air pollution from locomotives and increased traffic congestion, not to mention increased fuel usage.
- Increased noise pollution.
- Potential environmental disaster from a hazardous material spill.
- Economic impact to surrounding business, local governments (grade crossings, schools) and home property values. Who will pay for these costs and the un-expected costs?

Please consider the concerns of the local communities and highlighted short comings of the DEIS when making your final recommendations.

Regards,


 Simon F. Vollmer