

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
4

5 00725.011508.WILKENS.PCTZ.00443.D.N.CF
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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 NICK WILKENS

11 JANUARY 15, 2008

12 HOLIDAY INN

13 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE

14 Surface Transportation Board MATTESON, ILLINOIS

15 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

16 Log and Distribution:

17 Date Recd. _____

18 HDR File No. ☒ _____

19 Source (initial) _____

20 SLAECI _____

21 Co: Original - Job File
22 _____
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24 HDR

CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

Telephone: 312-781-9111

REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

1 MR. WILKENS: Nick Wilkens,
2 W-i-l-k-e-n-s. Home address is 21153 Main,
3 M-a-i-n, Matteson 60443. Fire chief of the
4 village of Matteson.

5 All right. We protect grade
6 crossings and intersections from Harlem Avenue to
7 the west going through Ridgeland Avenue, Central
8 Avenue, I-57 overpass, Cicero AVENUE Governors
9 Highway and Main Street. Governors Highway is
10 also an overpass which is one of my major
11 concerns along with the viaducts on Main Street
12 and Front Street in Matteson.

13 The two viaducts in the middle of
14 town, Front Street and Main Street were
15 constructed in 1927. The one on Governors as a
16 guess is about the same period of time because
17 that's when they they elevated the IC railroad
18 back in 1927.

19 The Governors Highway viaduct floods
20 pretty regularly. And if you go underneath
21 there, you can see a lot of erosion that is
22 taking place throughout the years. The rain that
23 we had last week, couple of inches, three or four
24 inches, it flooded and it stayed closed for about

1 two days. With the increase of train traffic,
2 we're concerned that it's going to block the
3 other grade crossings from Harlem Avenue going
4 east for any emergency vehicles coming from the
5 south, namely, Richton Park, Park Forest, Monee,
6 Peotone, University Park, maybe Steger Estates,
7 maybe even Steger if they have to come up and use
8 Governors Highway if it's flooded. They have to
9 reroute to go to a grade crossing. And I just
10 saw that they're looking to increase train
11 traffic in Matteson from 6 trains to 28 trains a
12 day. And our concern is the length of time that
13 the crossings at grade will be closed.

14 Another concern we have is I don't
15 remember ever seeing any maintenance being done
16 on the three viaducts that are in our town. It
17 may have been. I have no idea about it. I don't
18 remember seeing it. And I know that on the Front
19 Street and Main Street viaduct that there's
20 pieces of concrete now and then laying on the
21 roadway that come from the viaduct. And with the
22 increased traffic, the increased tonnage, the
23 increased vibrations, my concern is the safety
24 for the people around including train crews that

1 may be going over something that's not really
2 safe.

3 We have concerns about extra
4 hazardous material transportation, air pollutants
5 and things like that. That we can kind of deal
6 with, you know, because we know it's there, we
7 know what's coming, but to have the crossings at
8 grade closed longer than they are now and without
9 knowing the safety of those viaducts, we have
10 some concerns about that.

11 And I mentioned Front Street and the
12 Main Street viaduct because of that spur that
13 they're thinking about putting in to come from
14 the EJ&E up to the elevated CN line that they
15 have right now.

16 I think that's it.

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