

13879

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Docket #: -35087 - -

Subject: * EIS for proposed CN Acquisition of EJ&E
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Message:

Brian Marion
10816 Nebraska
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9/19/2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West
Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am a resident living in Frankfort, Illinois who will be impacted by the Canadian National (CN) purchase of the EJ&E Railroad. As a parent of two small children who play in our backyard only a few hundred feet from these tracks, I am writing to express some serious concerns I have with this sale.

I understand the regional benefit of this sale to increase traffic on these tracks to reduce congestion in other areas and to promote economic development throughout the region. However, CN's plan to substantially increase in traffic in our area, estimated to be 400%, raises two serious concerns for me.

For one, I would hope that any company given the privilege to attempt to implement such an aggressive plan would be one with a proven track record of safety and concern for the surrounding community. I don't believe that CN has a history that shows that it is capable of executing the task in this fashion. First of all, there is the report from the Standing Committee on Transport to the Canadian House of Commons that criticizes the safety record of the CN. Secondly, CN has pushed STB to expedite its decision for the sale at every turn bypassing many safety concerns from a variety of groups. Both of these make me strongly doubt that CN is truly concerned about safety of the surrounding communities.

Secondly, with such a tremendous increase in traffic comes the need for a greater level of mitigation to limit the adverse impacts to the community. It is my understanding that CN will only pay 10% towards this cost. However, given the current financial situations of the state and federal governments, I am not sure where the money will come from to pay for the remainder of the mitigation costs. I am very concerned that this sale will go through with only a minimum level mitigation implemented. This would be very detrimental to our community.

Please make sure that the final Environmental Impact Study takes my concerns into account. This decision will directly affect my family and many families in our area.

Respectfully,

Brian Marion