

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

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STATEMENT OF:

9

GARY BECKER

10

AUGUST 27, 2008

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BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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616 WEST MAIN STREET

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BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

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18 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

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1 MR. G. BECKER: G-A-R-Y, Gary Becker,
2 B-E-C-K-E-R, and this is my father Charlie,
3 Charles Becker.

4 Do you have anything you want to

5 say right now?

6 MR. C. BECKER: Well, we wrote --

7 MR. G. BECKER: Yeah, we typed this up
8 on the computer just so it will save time.

9 MR. C. BECKER: Our biggest concern is
10 safety.

11 MR. G. BECKER: This is the third time
12 we've submitted these answers to this Board
13 regarding this, the safety for the people of
14 Barrington and the surrounding area.

15 Ambulances, police cars, and fire
16 trucks all have to have immediate access to the
17 streets. If there's a fire or someone needs to
18 get to the hospital immediately, we got a train
19 coming through and that sets them back. They're
20 not going to get through.

21 And then twenty to twenty-six extra
22 trains, I mean that's just crazy. We don't need
23 that. There's enough traffic in this town. Our
24 streets are already congested with cars, trucks,

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1 and school bus traffic.

2 There are more homes built in this
3 area, and more and more people are moving into the
4 vicinity and traffic is just getting worse and
5 worse.

6 What did you want to say?

7 MR. C. BECKER: I had a question, and
8 that is, a concern rather, a hundred yards east of
9 here is a railroad crossing, well, it's the
10 railroad line, EJ&E, and of course the kids have

11 to go across that school back and forth.

12 My concern is sometimes these
13 freight trains start off and they'll stop right on
14 the crossing. So that means maybe some kids are
15 going to try to jump through because they're in a
16 hurry, and it presents a real problem. And I've
17 seen it happen.

18 My son has told you that the
19 biggest safety I have is if someone is having a
20 heart attack, they got to get through. And I
21 don't care if that train is going seventy-five
22 miles an hour, every second counts. That's the
23 biggest concern I have.

24 Plus, regarding that line in

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1 Barrington, the one I just talked about, there are
2 houses along there. We've talked to people. When
3 the freight train comes through now, it shakes
4 everything to the foundations.

5 MR. G. BECKER: This also affects small
6 businesses, companies in our town, and it will
7 affect the economy. If people cannot get through
8 to our town quickly enough, they'll just say
9 forget this, they're going to go to Lake Zurich,
10 they'll go to other areas and do their shopping.

11 Small business companies and shops
12 will close because of the poor turnout. And this
13 is going to affect them because there are not
14 enough customers.

15 It will also affect the taxes in
16 our town. So there's a lot of concerns. I have

17 six of these here. Charlie mentioned the homes
18 and the structural damage.

19 And then we did mention the concern
20 for the safety of the children. If a train stops
21 and it's there for a while, the kids are not going
22 to be patient, they're going to say I'm going to
23 go under it or I'm going to go through, I'm going
24 to climb over where they connect the trains, and

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1 that's just dangerous, especially if the train
2 starts to move again. So these are just some of
3 the concerns.

4 I appreciate your time. Thanks for
5 being patient.

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