

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

11 BOB ANDERSON
12

13 September 9, 2008
14

15 WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
16 1201 WEST NEW YORK STREET
17 AURORA, ILLINOIS
18

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1 MR. BOB ANDERSON: Well, I wanted to
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2 say I'm a resident of Aurora that lives
3 close to the EJ&E line in Georgetown
4 Subdivision and I wanted to counter a
5 couple of things that a couple of people
6 had mentioned inside the meeting where
7 comments were being made tonight to the
8 Surface Transportation Board.

9 And one gentleman commented that
10 the pollution would not increase, and just
11 by a rough estimates requiring the Canadian
12 National to come up to EPA zero standards,
13 which cuts pollution by about 50 percent on
14 their diesel locomotives, the increase of
15 traffic would actually double the pollution
16 along the line.

17 And if you add in the pollution
18 from the cars standing at the rail
19 crossings, you're probably looking at an
20 increase of 300 and 400 percent total over
21 the current levels.

22 That was one comment, and second
23 comment was regarding real estate prices,
24 or real estate values in the area of the

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1 EJ&E line that Canadian National wants to
2 purchase.

3 And in the draft study for the
4 EIS they came up with a number of 250 feet
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5 from the line people would be -- within 250
6 feet of the line people would be affected
7 in their real estate values, and that
8 probably is the major impact.

9 However, there still is a very
10 high impact out to 500 feet or perhaps even
11 600 feet.

12 I used to be a broker that
13 operated in this area back in the 1980s to
14 1990s and those homes out to that 600-foot
15 line that backed up to the EJ&E
16 particularly were always difficult to sell.

17 They took three times as long to
18 sell, and they usually had to give up 7 to
19 15 percent of their real estate value
20 versus somebody on the opposite side of the
21 street.

22 My concern with the 40 trains
23 rather than the current 10 trains a day is
24 that that line of 600 feet will be moved

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1 out to something more to like 1,200 feet
2 because of the noise and vibration levels.

3 So I think that your value of
4 250 feet is very minimal and way
5 underestimated, and studies should be done,
6 a specific study should be done along this
7 line, either by real estate consultants or
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8 appraisers that can verify my numbers
9 rather than your number.

10 I think that's all I have to
11 say, thank you.

12 (End of statement.)
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