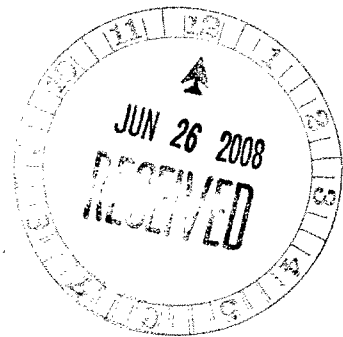




C O R P O R A T I O N

June 19, 2008

Ms. Anne Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423



Re: *Canadian National Railway Co., et al. – Control – EJ&E West Company,
STB Finance Docket No. 35087*

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

We are writing in support of CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). This transaction will improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area, to the benefit of railroads, their customers, and their suppliers as well as the Chicagoland region in general.

Hallcon Corporation, directly and through its subsidiaries, offers a number of services to the railroad and regional transit sectors across North America while employing over 800 people. Hallcon operates shuttle services for railway crews in Chicago area rail yards and we have witnessed first hand the rail traffic congestion in the area. Given our knowledge of other major rail centers in North America, we believe that the bottleneck caused in this area significantly reduces the efficiency of the North American rail network.

The City of Chicago is an important center for North American rail traffic, but the rail corridors in Chicago are congested. We believe this congestion creates unnecessary emissions from idling locomotives waiting their turn to move freight as well as an inefficient in the rail network. Policymakers have long recognized that action needs to be taken to reduce rail congestion in Chicago, and CN's proposed acquisition would help to reduce congestion by rerouting CN traffic from downtown to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago. The more efficient rail operations that will result will benefit CN and other railroads, as well as the business community that relies on rail service and the many communities in the downtown area that will experience reductions in train traffic.

We also urge the STB to approve this transaction expeditiously, as proposed by CN in its request for establishment of time limits for the environmental review and for issuance of a final decision. We support a meaningful environmental review to examine the impacts of moving train traffic off of downtown Chicago rail lines to the EJ&E, particularly as some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience rail traffic increases. The STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has been examining these issues for the last several months and has provided opportunities for community residents and officials to comment on the transaction. Interested parties will also have the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this transaction once it has been issued.

We urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this beneficial transaction as in the public interest. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Hallcon Corporation

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony G. Plut'.

Tony G. Plut
President & CEO

cc: David A. Hirsh, Esq, Harkins Cunningham LLP