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Comment Form

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

CN | EJ&E

Environmental Impact Statement

Date: September 14, 2008

Comments must be submitted by September 30, 2008.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed sale of EJ+E train tracks to the CN RR and the increased number of freight trains thru the Barrington area.

Gridlock already exists going in and out of Barrington from the current level of traffic and trains. Barrington is one of the few communities that can be brought to a total standstill with the major East/West and North/South routes being blocked all at the same time by a freight train.

Medical emergencies present a very great concern. The train tracks lie between a large number of residents and the hospital. There are no alternate routes to the hospital that do not cross railroad tracks. If an ambulance was trying to make its way to the hospital in a medical emergency and was held up by a freight train, a delay of several minutes could make a significant difference in the medical outcome. Many medical emergencies have a very short time "Window of opportunity" and delay could potentially cost lives.

The Metra commuter train is already frequently not on schedule due to signal problems and freight train priority. How badly will the Metra schedules be effected with a significant increase in freight traffic.

Safety is always a concern. In a recent crash in LA between a Metra commuter train and a freight, with 25 people killed, the engineer failed to heed a red signal. Accidents happen even with precautions in place and heavily increased traffic offers many more opportunities for potentially fatal accidents.

I suggest that at least more study be done to fully assess the impact that additional freight trains would impose on the Barrington community.

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

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Please check the public meeting you attended:

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