

E0-892



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Section of Environmental Analysis

April 10, 2008

Dick Newhard
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
536 North Harlem Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305

Re Notice of Agency Stakeholder Meetings for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Dick,

I am writing to update you regarding the development of the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) environmental review process for the Canadian National Railway Company's (CN) proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) and to invite you to the Illinois Natural Resources/Water Resources Agencies stakeholders' meeting on*

Tuesday, April 29, 2008
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HDR, Suite 900
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL, 60631
(773) 350-7900

State and local governments at the Board's Agency Scoping Meeting for the proposed acquisition held on January 23, 2008, offered to make available their resources and data to the Board, and to assist with data development for the environmental impact statement (EIS) being prepared by the Board for this transaction. At the meeting, we discussed holding several stakeholder meetings, prior to issuing the EIS, to provide an effective forum for agencies to gather and exchange information. The Board believes that the stakeholder process is a valuable tool in the environmental review process and welcomes your further participation in one or more of the stakeholder meetings that will be held over the next few months.

As discussed at the January agency scoping meeting, the purpose of these stakeholder meetings is to bring together state and local agencies, groups, and organizations that are affected by and also may affect the proposed transaction, efficiently compile data, exchange ideas and perspectives, and share resources and data, to the extent practicable, under the National Environmental Policy Act. To facilitate this task, five stakeholder groups have been established:

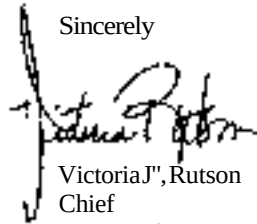
- Illinois Natural Resources/Water Resources Agencies
- Illinois Transportation/Safety Agencies
- Illinois Local Governments
- Northern Indiana Agencies/Governments
- Indiana State Agencies.

At least one additional meeting with each of these groups will occur following the release of the Draft EIS to discuss the analysis and obtain preliminary ideas on mitigation.

We encourage your participation in, and support of the stakeholder meetings. Please contact Rich Christopher of IIDR, the Board's representative, at (773) 67-7218 to provide the name of the participant from your agency if you plan to attend the Illinois Natural Resources/Water Resources Agencies stakeholder meeting on April 29. If you are interested in meeting individually or if you wish to participate in other stakeholder groups, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Christopher. Enclosed is the meeting agenda. We have also attached a chronology for the project, as an update for parties that are unable to attend the meetings.

We look forward to your on-going participation in the HS process for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria J. Rutson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria J. Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Chronology

- * October 30, 2007 CN filed an application with the Board for acquisition of the EJ&E.
- December 21, 2007- the Board issued a Notice of Intent (NOT) to prepare an EIS for this proceeding and a Draft Scope of the BIS
- January 5-22, 2008- the Board held seven public scoping open house meetings in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana
- * January 28, 2008: the comment period for scoping comments was extended to February 15, 2008

For additional information, see www.stbfinftgcedpcket35087.com

CN EJ&E Acquisition EIS

Illinois Natural Resources / Water Resources Agencies

April 29, 2008; 9 AM

HDR Office: 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue

(773)380-7900

Stakeholder Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- * Discussion of Stakeholder Group Purpose
- Discussion of Proposed Project
 - o General description
 - o Changes since scoping meeting
- * Discussion of Scoping Results
 - o Scoping issues relative to group interests
 - o Scoping issues outside Scope of Study
 - o Other scoping issues
- Discussion of Analysis Approach
 - o Discuss methodology
 - o Discuss extent/limits of analysis
- » Questions and Answers
- « Next Meeting
- * Adjourn