

Opposition Filing for STB Finance Docket #35087

I am opposed to the Canadian National Railways plans to purchase the EJ and E Line for the following reasons:

1. Increased freight traffic will impede ambulances from crossing tracks for cardiac and trauma patients in the Barrington, Illinois area. A 10 to 15 minute delay reaching the emergency department can mean life or death. One third of the ambulance runs from the Barrington area to the closest Trauma Center, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, originate on the other side of the EJ & E tracks from the hospital. The proposed increase in freight traffic to 29, 1.5 mile long trains per day will mean our roads will be blocked for two hours and forty minutes every day.
2. As a parent of two children with asthma, I object to the increased air pollution caused by a quadrupling of freight traffic in our backyard. Diesel locomotives are the single largest source of fine particulate matter in the U.S. and are one of the top triggers for asthma. The increase in air pollution will result in more asthma attacks. The irony is that the very rail traffic that causes more asthma attacks in children may also be the same freight trains that prevent them from reaching the hospital in time.
3. The increase in freight traffic around the Barrington, Illinois area will mean police and fire department vehicles will be blocked from reaching their destination. School buses cross the EJ & E tracks over 400 times per day in District 220 schools. Schools will need to start earlier and the probability of accidents will increase.

Thank you,

Robert Vlk
210 E Liberty St
Barrington, IL 60010
847-381-7321

minesclearance@comcast.net

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E Line 12-35087

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