

Correspondence

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Other Submissions

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Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #: - -

Subject: * CN Purchase of EJ&J
First Name: * Janet
Middle Name:
Last Name: * Susskind
Address: * 1933 Sundrop Court

City: * Bartlett
State: * IL
Zip Code: * 60103-
Email Address: * janettwinkles@sbcglobal.net
Group/Affiliation:
Message:

I live in Herons Landing in Bartlett, just west of the railroad tracks that are the subject of this filing. I have many, many concerns regarding the proposed purchase by CN and the increase in traffic that would follow.

As you are, no doubt, aware, West Bartlett Road is the main road to the Metra station for a number of Bartlett residents. This road consists of one lane in each direction. As it now stands, there are occasions when our daily commute to the train is jeopardized by an unscheduled train crossing those tracks, but with the proposed increase to approximately 25 trains a day, it would be inevitable. There would be no way for the hundreds of daily commuters to determine when to leave the house in order to catch the train they need to get to work or school.

Furthermore, the residents of Herons Landing and neighboring communities are soon to be the beneficiaries of a brand new fire station close to our homes; however, that new station will be located just east of the tracks. As you can imagine, the results of any fire or health emergency would be severely hampered by those very same trains. There is no other way to get aid to us, and, as you know, seconds can count in an emergency. Waiting while a mile-long train passes could, and no doubt would, literally mean the difference between life and death.

On one occasion, I was one of many people sitting in a queue to go west on West Bartlett Road when a train was crossing (possibly stopped, but I was so far back I don't know that for sure) and I was stopped just west of Route 59. Since train traffic is predicted to increase by more than 500%, the likelihood of this occurring more frequently is significant. If there were a dozen and a half more cars behind me, it would have affected traffic on Route 59 -- a real nightmare, and one the Village cannot afford to even entertain. I suspect that the only reason I was not one of those cars was that many cars pulled an illegal U-turn to find another way home (another safety issue, no doubt).

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Additionally, I understand that the materials carried on these trains may be chemical and petrochemical products. While, fortunately, derailments are few and far between, the proposed change in ownership will increase the possibility/likelihood of a haz-mat spill 500% -- an accident waiting to happen.

Finally, there is the very real possibility that many drivers will not want to wait for mile+ long trains and will try to beat the gates. (With five times as many trains, how can you blame them?) Some of those people will be commuters rushing for a train, while others will be parents with children they are trying to get to school or a doctor's appointment on time. Some of them will not win that race. That is probably the most serious consideration of all.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these very real factors. I hope you will seriously consider them. I know you are aware that no residents and no Villages along the route that this will affect are in favor of the plan -- that is an awful lot of people to be unhappy. Please consider that carefully.