

January 25, 2008

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

Dear Honorable Anne Quinlan:

I am writing to express concern over Finance Docket No. 35087 for CN's acquisition of EJ&J lines and their planned construction and increased operations in the Chicago suburbs. It is my understanding that CN plans to operate 15-27 additional trains through this suburban area as well as construct six new rail connections and approximately 19 miles of new sidings / double track. My concerns include the following:

* Construction impacts including visual quality, construction traffic and staging areas, water quality, hazardous materials and noise and vibration.

Air quality – For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day - the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality.

Visual Impacts – new visual elements will be introduced including additional freight vehicles (approximately two additional hours per day of rolling freight trains) as well as (potentially) sound and retaining walls. In addition new sources of light and glare from embedded track surfaces could occur.

Noise and Vibration – There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville. With the school's proximity to the tracks, as well as its location between two crossings, the number of trains crossing throughout the school day would create unacceptable noise and vibration levels.

Traffic – In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area, the delays caused by the freight trains will have a negative impact on land uses, the ability to transport students to and from school in a safe and timely fashion, and the ability for emergency response vehicles to cross.

The negative impacts to the communities located along these freight lines are significant; thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beeth Knicker

cc: Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board
CN-B&E BIS - FD-35087

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