

Mr. Sean Dudak
11708 Coquille Drive
Frankfort, IL 60423

September 6, 2008

The Honorable Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West
Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am a resident of Frankfort, Illinois who will be impacted by the CN purchase of EJ&E Railroad, mainly in the fact that the subdivision I live in is less than 1 mile South of the subject East/West railway and in my daily commutes to work and marketplace I travel through two (2) of the existing at grade crossings several times a day, and the same is true for my wife. In fact the very school that my two (2) children will soon be attending is within a quarter (1/4) mile of the railway and I am concerned for their future safety as they walk and/or bike to school. I am writing to express my concerns based on my review of the facts noted in your Draft Environmental Impact Statement that was compiled and made public information. I have been employed as a Transportation Engineer for 13 years and have become familiar with analyzing Environmental Impact Statements and I am deeply worried about the negative impact this proposed railway acquisition would have on any community, whether it be the community I live in, or any other.

I understand that the EJ&E tracks in Frankfort have not received major repairs in over 25 years. That's one reason the experienced train engineers go so slowly through Frankfort, which trust me I have seen first hand as I occasionally wait for the train to pass while sitting in traffic. Now the Canadian National is proposing to increase the number of trains by over 400% which will increase the frequency and intensity of noise, vibration, and pollution created by the rail system, and they state that they will run trains through our community at 45 miles per hour on these old tracks which are currently showing physical signs of fatigue as the current heavily loaded freight train cars travel along them. I am also concerned that to date it has not been disclosed what type of hazardous materials will be transported by CN. I also wonder if the authors of your Draft Environmental Impact Statement have read the report to the Canadian House of Commons from the Standing Committee on Transport that severely criticizes the safety record of the Canadian National Railway. Perhaps the most alarming comment in the report is that by 2008, the CN had only implemented one out of the five safety measures it was ordered to implement by the Canadian government back in 2001. If they won't implement safety measures for their own government, why should we believe that they will show a concern for safety when operating in the United States? In fact Canadian National employees are quoted in the report as saying that they work in a "culture of fear," which affects safety.

Please make sure that the final Environmental Impact Study takes the safety record of the CN into consideration, as well as the quality of life of the communities along the railway. I can not honestly believe that these hazardous conditions might be burdened upon any community. We are counting on you to help avoid a tragedy in our community.

Sincerely,



Sean Dudak, P.E., P.L.S.