

Dicie Hansen
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22/302

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D C 20423

Re Canadian National Railway Co, *et al* - Control – EJ&E West Company
(STB Finance Docket 35087)

Dear Secretary Williams

My name is Dicie Hansen and I am a long-time resident of the Barrington area. I am writing to oppose the acquisition of EJ&E West Company by Canadian National Railway Co ("CN").

The EJ&E rail line bifurcates the Barrington area, any change in its use cannot help but have a significant impact on our community. Quite simply, CN's proposal to run 20 freight trains per day on the EJ&E will wreak havoc in the Barrington area in terms of safety, traffic, the environment and the local economy.

- Trains in excess of 5,000 feet will block multiple street level crossings simultaneously with no way around them. Emergency vehicles will be unable to reach their destinations in a timely manner.
- Massive traffic backups will cause motorists to seek alternative routes on residential streets posing an increased threat to residents and requiring additional village safety personnel.
- District 220 school buses crisscross the EJ&E on a daily basis and many children walk to school, especially to the high school, located only three blocks from an EJ&E crossing. Student safety will be at greater risk.
- The EJ&E runs along Flint Creek, the major watershed for the Barrington area and along the northwest corner of Cuba Marsh. Increased air pollutants and the potential for hazardous waste spills put our air and water at increased risk.
- The Metra line runs through Barrington, drawing significant numbers of commuters from the surrounding villages and beyond. Conflicts between the commuter and freight lines will contribute to the traffic congestion and increase commuting times.
- The noise pollution from 20 trains a day will be significant. Homes, businesses, the Barrington Area Library, Citizens Park, the Barrington High School will all be adversely affected.
- Lake-Cook Road, Route 59/Hough Street and Route 14 are major traffic thoroughfares for people traversing the Barrington area enroute to another destination. The EJ&E crosses all three roads.

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In reading the filings submitted regarding this proposed transaction, I noted the number of communities and individuals who support the proposal because rail traffic will be diverted from their area. I have attached several of these documents to this letter. In particular, I draw your attention to the letter from Peter Boonstra, Principal of Illiana Christian High School and Gerald Hass, a homeowner in Lansing, Illinois. The very problems they are so eager to reduce will become the problems of the Barrington area.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to consider CN's application with the utmost care. Be aware that a decision to approve the transaction will unalterably change the character of our community to the detriment of our residents, schools and businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Dicie Hansen
January 9, 2008