

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN  
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE  
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY  
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5 00763.010108.BREITLOW.PCTZ.60120.0.N.CF  
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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 CHARLENE BREITLOW

11 JANUARY 17, 2008

12 ST. ANDREWS GOLF CLUB

13 3 N 441 ROUTE 59

14 WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
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19 Surface Transportation Board  
20 60120.010108.0007  
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21 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

22 Telephone: 312-781-9111  
23

24 REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

1 MS. BREITLOW: Charlene Breitlow. 98  
2 King Arthur Court, Elgin 60120. It's an  
3 unincorporated area. And I have -- I thought it  
4 was four trains a day. They're telling us it's  
5 five trains a day. And it's going to go from 20  
6 to 25 trains a day. And the CN man doesn't care  
7 that I'm going to lose money on my property. I  
8 should have known better to buy near a railroad  
9 track. That really upset me.

10 And the noise of course is terrible.  
11 When the wind is blowing toward me, it sounds  
12 like the train is coming through my bedroom. And  
13 if there's one every hour, it's going to be  
14 horrible. It wakes us up.

15 The shaking of the house is going to  
16 affect us. We have a museum in our home. I have  
17 people from all over the world come to visit. We  
18 have antique toy soldiers. And they will shake  
19 on the shelves. We have to check and line them  
20 up. At 20 to 25, they'll be falling and breaking  
21 and they're very expensive and historic.

22 We have a pond. We bought the  
23 property across the street from us. It's a pond.  
24 It's a retention pond. And that borders the

1 track. It's right on the track. And that is --  
2 we fought -- we went to the Army corps of  
3 engineers. We struggled to save the property so  
4 it wouldn't be built on to keep our environment a  
5 beautiful environment. Also to help safe the  
6 animals.

7 And when my grandchildren come and we  
8 walk around the property, they're very curious  
9 about the tracks. And they want to go close to  
10 the tracks. And it's very dangerous and scary to  
11 me that there's no protection to keep anyone from  
12 the tracks.

13 Oh, I suppose you could say children  
14 should know better, but there will be young  
15 children this the area. There's more and more  
16 younger children. We're all older and -- people  
17 who own the homes and I'm sure that younger  
18 people will want to move into the area. And it's  
19 going to be dangerous for those children.

20 The animals. What are they going to  
21 do? We have we moved there to be in a woodland  
22 area and have deer and coyote and fox and  
23 raccoons. And we talk about the raccoons. We  
24 don't always like them, but we feed them and we

1 don't want them destroyed. And they -- the  
2 animals don't have anyplace to go.

3 So I'm thinking that's who we should  
4 really contact, the people who care about animals  
5 because CN, they don't care about us as people.  
6 And this is my retirement money. My husband and  
7 I are older. And we hope to gain a profit on  
8 selling our home. And 20 to 25 trains is going  
9 to diminish our income, our salability of our  
10 home. And they don't care. But maybe the people  
11 who protect animals would care more than people  
12 who protect people. I'm angry.

13 I can't think of all the things we  
14 talked about.

15 When I bought my home 12 years ago, I  
16 did check into what was happening with the train.  
17 And I was told that Barrington and Wayne,  
18 W-a-y-n-e, they're both affluent communities on  
19 the same line track. And I was told that they  
20 bonded together and kept the train from expanding  
21 and that they had made some agreement that it  
22 would not expand. So that's why I bought the  
23 property. So I did inquire about it before  
24 purchasing this property. Four trains a day is

1 tolerable. 20 is not. But for the CN man to  
2 insinuate that I should have known better than to  
3 buy near a track was unfair to me because I did  
4 check into it. He is saying, well, things chain.  
5 Not for the better in this case.

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