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February 12, 2008

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

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 -

Dear Honorable Anne Quinlan:

I am writing about CN's acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago. The negative impacts to the communities located along this proposed route are substantial. My concerns include the following:

- Air quality - train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day.. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality..
- Safety - The increased rail traffic will have many negative safety impacts including:
 - Increase in at-grade crossing accident probability.
 - Increase in transport of hazardous materials and potential for derailment.
- Noise and Vibration - There are schools and homes immediately adjacent to the right of way.. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville. Audible warning system bells would be a near constant in this area with crossings at 111th street and 103rd street. 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 noise and vibration levels that would clearly disrupt concentration. Also, District 204's third high school, Metea Valley is planned to be constructed near the tracks. Again, there is concern for noise, vibration and safety of the students.
- Traffic - In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area, if we assume an additional 25 freight trains with each taking 5 minutes to pass, this would account for more than 2 hours wait time, in a 24 hour period, at crossings. The delays caused by the freight trains will have a detrimental 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.

Thank you for taking the time to make sure my concerns are addressed.

Gratefully,



cc: Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board

Case File # - FD-35087

Division of Environment

File #

File #

Comments (initials):

DATE

Original - Job File

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