

Spring Lakes Mobile Home Estates

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January 21, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Environmental Filing
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Date Recd: _____

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Re: Canadian National Railway acquisition of E J E Railway Line

The following are serious and damaging impacts to Spring Lakes Mobile Home Estates residents from the CN acquisition of the EJE Rail line. Spring Lakes Mobile Home Estates is immediately east of the EJE tracks on the North side of West Bartlett Road in Bartlett. There are approximately 500 home sites that total approximately 1000 +- residents, many who will experience some hardship with the CN plan, mostly from the constant and hourly around the clock noise of the train and train whistles and the vibration of their homes from the passing trains, especially the homeowners on the west side of the Spring Lakes Estates community. The vibration of the trains can cause some serious structural problems to their homes, loosening of the utility line connections and can be costly for the homeowner to relevel their homes more than would ordinarily be necessary. The trains noise and the train whistles will cause a constant disruption to the homeowners peaceful enjoyment of their homes - interfering with their rest, sleep, and quiet use of their homes. Many may choose to leave the community, creating monetary losses for Spring Lakes Estates. This will cause depreciating values to the mobile home owner and the Spring Lakes Estates property owners.

West Bartlett Road is a main east west traffic artery, second only to Route 20/Lake Street through Bartlett. When Route 20 has traffic diverted due to accidents (often) West Bartlett is heavy bumper to bumper traffic for long periods of time.

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This traffic is backed up for long periods of time when the EJE trains block West Bartlett Road (often), backing traffic for more than a mile and all types of emergency vehicles get delayed in the backed up traffic, making access to Spring Lakes Estates difficult. It's not unusual to be stopped in traffic **well over 30 minutes**. Vehicles make U turns or drive on the shoulder of the road, if they aren't going as far as the tracks. There is no easy way around. This train crossing, as is, has negative impacts to the residents of this area, and the CN proposal is adding to this 5X plus. We have only one driveway to enter or leave Spring Lakes Estates and find this plan not only to be a major inconvenience but also a safety issue. The existing conditions are troublesome, and adding to it would be damaging to homeowners, business along the route, and for traffic and emergency vehicles.

It's especially troublesome that this will be a supply line for steel, chemical, and petrochemical industries. The possibility exists for error or accident in the close proximity to the mobile homes in Spring Lakes Mobile Home Estates.

This proposal is dangerous and without conscience to further impact this heavily trafficked West Bartlett Road and to the many residents surrounding the RR tracks.

Sincerely,



Marie DeFrenza, Director
Spring Lakes Mobile Home Estates, Inc.