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1/18/2008

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to you about the issues I have with Canadian National Railroad's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E rail line that runs through Barrington, Illinois. I have grave concerns not only about safety and the travel pattern disruption, but the proximity of these trains to my home. I can literally look out my back window and see the trains that use these tracks. It isn't an issue when there are only about 3 trains a day, but if this number jumps to 20 or 30, my home turns into a train station. That will go for the other 186 homes that are also located in the Braemar subdivision of Barrington.

If this CN acquisition occurs, it will become nearly intolerable to live in my home. With trains going by on an average of one per hour, the noise will be constant and train horns will be blasting at all hours of the day and night. My home will be continuously shaking due the vibration caused by the trains. I don't even have to hear a train going by; I can tell one is going through the subdivision when I see items in my home shake. The structure of my home will be slowly compromised with each passing train. The noxious fumes from the trains will now be constant, and we won't even want to go outside of our home. My whole yard would be rendered useless for my three small children. Not only that, but I would fear for my children's safety with the constant passing of trains. I know that CN Railroad has a history of some nasty derailments. That is exactly what we don't need in our still quiet subdivision.

My next major concern is the traffic issue. These railroad tracks cross Ela Road, which is about one-half mile north of my home. This is my only convenient way to downtown Lake Zurich, which is just one mile away. I could very well be waiting 10-15 minutes just to travel the mile it takes to get to Target or Home Depot. My only other option in going around these tracks involves a 5-mile ride where I would have to circle around Lake Zurich. That is totally unfair to not only myself, but to the whole subdivision of Braemar. We moved there specifically because of the convenience to all the stores and the knowledge that only 2 or 3 trains a day travel on the train line.

I would appreciate consideration of this while the CN acquisition is being reviewed. If this goes through, it would wreak havoc on the lives of everyone in the Braemar subdivision. We would have trains constantly going by, it would become obnoxiously loud in the area, my home would be shaking continuously, the odor outside could become horrendous, the safety of all children would be of great concern, and it could quintuple our time to travel just one mile. I can guarantee that all of these issues would decrease the value of my home and all others in the subdivision by 10%. With the housing market the way it currently is, no one can handle a drop in home value by that much. This CN acquisition is something that I feel is totally unfair, and I would appreciate you taking all of these issues into consideration. I would like to thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kevin A. Gallo
550 Braemar Ln.
Barrington, IL 60010

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - 60-0007

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