

21032 N. Crestview Dr.
Barrington IL 60010
August 14, 2008

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

As a resident of Barrington, IL, one of the towns along the E J & E that will be most seriously affected by a C N takeover, I want to reemphasize the seriousness of the consequences of the CN purchase.

Our situation is somewhat unique in that the E J & E splits the town with five grade crossings and also crosses the Union Pacific commuter/ freight line. In addition to worsening already severe traffic congestion, the twenty freight trains per day will create an untenable situation for emergency response by police, fire and ambulance services. CN claims that this should not be a problem because the trains pass through at 40 mph. However, the trains do not speed through and often slow to a crawl, sometimes coming to a complete stop for up to 5 or more minutes followed by slow acceleration, presumably because of having to coordinate with the busy Union Pacific commuter and freight traffic. Other towns along the E J & E may have a similar situation where there is an east-west commuter line that is crossed by the E J & E.

Mitigation is not an acceptable solution to these problems. Grade separations are not practical because of the number of crossings involved. Even if it were feasible, it would require years to accomplish and with a cost in excess of 100 million dollars for Barrington alone. Relocation or duplication of some emergency facilities could conceivably be accomplished at unnecessary expense, but adding another hospital is not feasible.

The traffic and safety consequences could literally ruin the village. We urge that you give serious consideration to these issues in your deliberations.

Thanks for your consideration.



Gilbert G. Kamm