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Loe + Jack UHR.
24519 Ganton
NAPERVILLE IL
60564

January 25, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 - Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation -
Control- EJ&E West Company

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to express concern over CN's acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago. It is my understanding that CN plans to operate 15-27 additional trains through this suburban area as well as construct six new rail connections and approximately 19 miles of new sidings / double track. My concerns include the following:

- Land Use - The double tracking and frequent train activity would essentially introduce permanent features (rolling, mile-long barriers approximately two times an hour) that would disrupt, divide, or isolate existing neighborhoods, communities, and land uses. Along the entire length of the alignment, schools, libraries, farmland, hospitals and recreational areas are used by residents along both sides.
- Noise and Vibration - There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville.
- Visual Impacts - new visual elements will be introduced including additional freight vehicles (approximately two additional hours per day of rolling freight trains) as well as (potentially) sound and retaining walls.
- Air quality - For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day, indeed, the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality in a nonattainment area.

I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition; I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

cc: Anne K. Quinlan, Esq., Acting Secretary

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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