

Other Submissions

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Docket #:

-35087--

Subject: *

Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company Finance Docket No. 35087

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Message:

For the past 18 years, I've lived about 1/8 of a mile from the EJ & E rail track line which my family and I can see from our back windows. Both entrances to the roughly 175 home Barrington/Lake Zurich subdivision where we live are within 1/4 mile of the line. Not infrequently, a freight train using this track will slow to a stop, stopping traffic on one or both 2-lane access roads that border our subdivision. One of these slow-moving trains travels behind us between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m., still during the morning work commute rush. Such trains can halt traffic for about 10 minutes. During summer months when our windows are open, we cannot hear a phone caller or the television over the rumble of the train without closing windows, moving elsewhere in the house, or adjusting the TV volume.

Given the relatively low volume of trains traditionally using this line, such annoyances have been tolerable. However, considering a four-fold increase in train volume against the many 2-lane access roads in the congested Barrington area communities is truly a dreadful prospect. Getting over 6,000 public school students to and from the Lake Zurich schools requires a fleet of buses warming and operating between 5:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or later, some of which cross this track line on one or more of five 2-lane roads during the school/work week in our school district (95). Work commutes are rather oppressive now, especially on days when an accident or hazardous weather can double commute time.

There are additional concerns arising from elongated response time for emergency vehicles that service the many urban-sprawl communities that the EJ & E track line runs through. If the affected citizens cannot prevent the purchase of the track line and the expected increase in its use, I sincerely hope we can effect some sensible limitations on the number and timing of trains to minimize the adverse impact on school students/families/staff, work commuters, and emergency responders.

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

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