

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
4 Surface Transportation Board
5 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
6 Log and Distribution

7 Date Recvd: _____

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14 STATEMENT OF:

15 **HDR**

16 ROBERT JOHNSTON

17 JANUARY 15, 2008

18 . 00712.011508.JOHNSTON.PGTZ.60423.0.Y.CF

19 HOLIDAY INN

20 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE

21 MATTESON, ILLINOIS

22 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

23 Telephone: 312-781-9111

24 REPORTED BY: Fran Okrei, 84-1074

1 MR. JOHNSTON: Robert Johnston, 833
2 Highland Road. That's in Frankfort, Illinois
3 60423.

4 To the Canadian National Railroad. To
5 Mr. E. Hunter Harrison: In response to your
6 open letter to the community, I would like to
7 address my concerns on the impact of your
8 plans to me and my community.

9 As a resident of the Village of
10 Frankfort, I have a question as to the impact
11 of the increased traffic on the EJ&E tracks,
12 in particular, the length of delay that the
13 project will cause to our local fire, police
14 and ambulance services as this may cause loss
15 of property and/or life.

16 My next question would be about the
17 increased health issues that would impact our
18 community from the increased train traffic.
19 Can you explain the health problems associated
20 with the increased air, water and noise
21 pollution as they may cause loss of or quality
22 of life?

23 In addition, I would like to ask about
24 the increased danger to myself and fellow

1 residents at train crossings to both
2 pedestrians and motorists as the volume of
3 trains increases, and as in your letter
4 implies, at a faster rate of speed.

5 I would also like additional
6 information on both the type and amount of
7 hazardous materials that you intend to
8 increase through our community so that we can
9 be prepared for such a disaster.

10 Mr. Harrison, I note your concern for
11 rail congestion. However, are you not just
12 changing the location of the problem from one
13 area to cause a problem in other areas, like
14 my community and every other community that
15 the train will pass through?

16 As I see it, with much of the growth
17 occurring in the suburban areas, you will only
18 have more problems over more miles of tracks.
19 Could you not just take your 400 million and
20 spend it on what you have already had problems
21 with instead of creating additional ones?

22 I will ask the question about the
23 impact on local government services and the
24 real cost to all the communities involved and

1 if your corporation is willing to pay for them
2 in perpetuity.

3 In conclusion, we have all been warned
4 about terrorists. Does this include Canadian
5 National Railroad? Thank you. Robert
6 Johnston.

7 My wife elaborated a little bit about
8 the train crossing, she wanted to share that.
9 In particular, the health, about all of our
10 infrastructure being on one side of the track
11 and fire stations on the other side, police
12 stations on the other side. The schools are
13 on -- have to go back and forth from one side
14 to the other. I think that's it.

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