

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 HEIDI L. KEENAN

11 JANUARY 15, 2008

12 HOLIDAY INN

13 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE

14 MATTESON, ILLINOIS

15 Surface Transportation Board

16 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

17 Log and Distribution

18 Date Recd: _____

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21 **HDR** CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

22 Telephone: 312-781-9111
23

24 REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

1 MS. KEENAN: Heidi Keenan,
2 K-e-e-n-a-n. This is a letter that Historical
3 Old Matteson Homeowners' Association wrote about
4 this issue.

5 I'm Heidi Keenan. I am president of
6 the association. This letter was sent to
7 Ms. Johnson-Ball today, but we would also like it
8 to be part of the record.

9 Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball. Our village,
10 Matteson, Illinois, owes its existence to the
11 railroad industry. During the mid to late 20th
12 century, three railroad companies, the Illinois
13 Central, the Michigan Central and the EJ&E laid
14 tracks to and through our town.

15 These commercial transportation
16 ventures provided Matteson area farmers and other
17 businesses direct access to urban markets.

18 In time, Matteson experienced solid
19 economic and population growth. Based on a
20 special census in 2005, Matteson has a
21 residential population of 16,529.

22 Of the total village population, we
23 estimate that approximately 1500 people live in
24 the area commonly known as Old Matteson. See

1 attached map.

2 This neighborhood is where Canadian
3 National Railroad, CN, proposes to construct a
4 new alignment lead and wyes as part of its
5 acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

6 In this area, our homeowners will
7 experience an adverse impact to their quality of
8 life due to huge increases in train traffic as
9 cited in CN's application.

10 In addition, residents in several
11 neighborhoods both to the east and west of Old
12 Matteson will also experience a similar
13 degradation in their quality of life.

14 The Historic Old Matteson Homeowners'
15 Association was formed to promote Matteson as an
16 attractive and safe community by combining
17 traditional values with modern conveniences that
18 enhance the quality of life, however, our
19 foremost concern and focus is for the residents
20 of Old Historical Matteson.

21 We are pleased and encouraged that
22 the Surface Transportation Board is preparing an
23 environmental impact statement that will address
24 such issues as safety, energy, air quality, noise

1 and vibration, water resources and cultural and
2 historic assets. These areas will directly
3 affect the quality of life of our membership.

4 We strongly support village of
5 Matteson officials who have taken the initiative
6 on the proposed CN-EJ&E acquisition by meeting
7 with CN officials to ensure that the concerns of
8 all Matteson residents are satisfactorily
9 addressed. And then it's signed, sincerely,
10 Heidi L. Keenan, president Historical Old
11 Matteson Homeowners' Association.

12 And in addition, I would also like to
13 mention a couple of other items. Right now
14 Governors Highway has viaducts that flood five,
15 six times a year. That's the only way through
16 Matteson north to south that doesn't involve
17 having to wait for a train if there's a train on
18 the EJ&E tracks.

19 Also on Governors Highway and
20 Crawford Avenue in Olympia Fields is a major
21 trauma center and numerous fire engines and
22 ambulances use Governors Highway to get to the
23 hospital. If that's flooded and there's trains
24 blocking the other tracks due to the significant

1 increase in numbers of trains per day, I think
2 that creates a public safety concern not to
3 mention an inconvenience for residents trying to
4 get around the neighborhood as well. That's all
5 I have.

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