

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN,
3 JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:
10 KENNETH EYER
11 AUGUST 25, 2008
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14 HOLIDAY INN
15 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
16 MATTESON, ILLINOIS
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19 CHIMNIAK COURT REPORTING & VIDEO
20 Telephone: (312) 781-9111
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23 REPORTED BY: Rachel F. Gard, CSR, RPR, 084-3324
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1 MR. EYER: My name is Kenneth Eyer, E Y E R. I
2 work for the Village of Park Forest as a public works

3 director and village engineer. I live in the village of
4 Frankfort. Both Frankfort and Park Forest are
5 negatively affected by the merger, I believe, at least
6 the residents.

7 The number one concerns I have and questions
8 that I have as the director for public works is we have
9 currently an orchard overpass. It's probably about 60
10 years old. The agreement with the EJ&E is that the
11 village maintains that structure from the ballast on
12 down, which means we maintain the whole structure. The
13 structure is, as I said, 60 years old. It's old. It's
14 kind of narrow, so the streets are narrow there. And
15 there's some concerns about replacing that. Also with
16 the volume of traffic that's expected to increase, I
17 don't know what the railroad responsibility is to make
18 sure that's safe for them.

19 When we go on and we're looking at Western
20 Avenue, there is the possibility of putting an overpass
21 there. There's some concerns about health and safety
22 within the village and the public safety. And traffic
23 as that crossing will be down considerably more than it
24 is now, and the trains do stop in that area to change

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1 crews currently now.

2 I'm not sure if that can accommodate a
3 pedestrian bridge -- or I mean overpass or viaduct-type
4 thing without causing impact on the shopping center
5 that's being there for development. And, again, we'd be
6 going into maintenance agreements. And the concern, of
7 course, has been stated from Canadian National they

8 would pay their share, which they say is 10 percent.
9 That means the locals have to pick that up. You know,
10 both IDOT and Village of Park Forest cannot afford that
11 with the whole infrastructure.

12 So with the new railroad coming in with the
13 purpose of expanding the line, I believe they should
14 absorb more costs than that. They should be making
15 improvements including the structures because they're
16 now changing what was originally set up to be from when
17 the railroads were there before.

18 Let's see. Did I cover everything? I just
19 want to emphasize again, with the maintenance agreements
20 and the way those viaducts were built in the past that
21 the burden does fall on the villages.

22 One other thing, as a resident of Frankfort, I
23 live on the south end, which is going to be cut off by
24 heavy train traffic. And the concern here is emergency

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1 vehicles getting to me to help out and transporting us
2 to hospitals, if needed, because time would be of
3 essence for emergencies. And that's a major concern.
4 And so if there is viaducts placed again, the cost falls
5 onto the locals. And I believe that's not such a good
6 thing.

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