



CN | EJ&E

Environmental Impact Statement

Service Date: July 25, 2008

Comment Due Date: September 30, 2008

Finance Docket No. 35087
Prepared by:
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company

Location: The EJ&E freight rail line is an approximately 200-mile long railroad located in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana that forms an arc around Chicago extending from Waukegan, Illinois to Gary, Indiana; and from Gary northwest to Chicago along Lake Michigan.

Abstract: On October 30, 2007, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) seeking the Board's approval to acquire control of EJ&E West Company, which today is a wholly owned noncarrier subsidiary of Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). The Applicants are proposing to acquire control of EJ&E West Company and to use EJ&E's main rail line to connect all five of CN's rail lines in the Chicago, Illinois, metropolitan area. CN would shift much of the rail traffic currently moving over CN's rail lines in Chicago to the EJ&E main line. Rail traffic on CN rail lines inside the EJ&E arc would generally decrease, and the number of trains operating on the EJ&E main line outside Chicago would increase by approximately 15 to 24 trains per day. The Proposed Action would also result in (1) the construction of six new rail connecting tracks between existing rail lines, totaling about 4.9 miles; (2) the construction of five segments totaling 19 miles of double track (parallel track) to augment the existing single track; and (3) increases in the use of Kirk Yard and East Joliet Yard for rail car classification and train assembly and disassembly. The Draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts that might occur if the Applicants were to acquire and operate trains over the EJ&E Railroad. The potential environmental impacts to both the human and the natural environment that could result from the proposed acquisition are compared to the environmental impacts of continuing existing rail operations on the EJ&E rail line and the five CN rail lines that feed into Chicago. The Draft EIS also sets forth SEA's preliminary recommended mitigation, Applicants' voluntary mitigation measures, and encourages mutually acceptable negotiated agreements to mitigate adverse environmental impacts should the Board approve this acquisition. The Draft EIS reflects the active participation of members of the public in the Chicago area and beyond, including more than 5,000 comments submitted to date.

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