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January 25, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 - Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation - Control- EJ&E West Company

Dear Honorable Anne Quinlan:

My concerns over CN's acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago include the following:

- Noise and Vibration - There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville. With the school's proximity to the tracks, as well as its location between two crossings, the number of trains crossing throughout the school day would create unacceptable noise and vibration levels.
- Traffic - In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area, if we assume an additional 25 freight trains with each taking 5 minutes to pass, this would account for more than 2 hours wait time, in a 24 hour period, at crossings. The delays caused by the freight trains will have a negative impact on land uses, the ability to transport students to and from school in a safe and timely fashion, and the ability for emergency response vehicles to cross.
- Air quality - For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day - the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality.
- Safety - The increased rail traffic will have many negative safety impacts including higher probabilities of at-grade crossing accidents and derailment of trains transporting hazardous materials.

The negative impacts to the communities located along this proposed route are substantial. I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition, construction and increased operations I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Vesta

cc: Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis

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

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