



Environmental Impact Statement



CN | EJ&E

# Scoping Comment for the Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company STB Finance Docket No. 35087 Comment Form

## How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at the public open house scoping meeting, or follow the directions on the reverse side of this sheet to mail your comments.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a member of the project team or court reporter at this public open house scoping meeting, or call the toll-free project information line: 1-800-347-0689.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov), under the heading "E-Filing."

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. Comments must be submitted by February 1, 2008.

There are absolutely NO positive impacts for the greater Barrington community if CN buys the EJ&E railroad since every possible nightmare scenario will come to fruition from excessive traffic congestion, delay of emergency vehicles i.e. risk to human lives, severe adverse effects on the nature preserves and the nature around Barrington, the schools in District 220, and last but not least the preservation of an almost 150 year old town that takes pride in its historical district and heritage.

**Traffic congestion:** Barrington deals with an overload of through traffic from all the neighboring suburbs that depend on the major routes through Barrington. To slow this traffic due to increased traffic on the EJ&J railroad will add to excessive idling and air pollution.

**Emergency vehicles and access to Good Shepherd Hospital:** Good Shepherd is the major hospital for the area and it has become the major cardiovascular trauma center for the NW Chicago suburbs. Time is of essence in emergencies and the increased railroad traffic will indirectly cost lives and that could have been saved if the minutes were spent in the trauma center rather than waiting to cross the railroad.

**Nature preserves and the open nature:** Barrington host hundreds of bicyclist and walkers from all over Chicago and the increased railroad traffic will severely limit the accessibility of all the current bike paths and nature walks. Also, natural life for all the species in Barrington's forest preserves and unique landscape will be threatened since increased noise and congestion caused by the railroad will have a severe impact on wild life.

**School district 220:** There is one High School, nine Elementary Schools and two Middle Schools in the Barrington community, every single school is immediately impacted by the increased railroad traffic since the student districting not only means that a majority of the students (school buses and on foot) must pass any of the railroad crossings. Increased traffic will jeopardize the safety of all the students, the parents and the teachers since the stress of being "stuck" will increase the propensity to "beat the train", thus putting anyone at risk of injuries or death.

**Historic district:** Barrington has existed as a community for almost 150 years with the current proposal the community's reaction will be a fire sale of real estate and it will not be long before one of Chicago's best preserved communities will go from boom to bust. We do not need a Canadian railroad operator to drive us from our homes. Many of the citizens have stayed or come back to the place where they grew up because they wanted to provide a safe environment for their children and this is something that my children will not be able to do because a decision in favor CN's purchase.

Please, listen to all the factual information against CN's purchase and make your ruling to preserve the American dream and not the Canadian profit motive.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

What scoping meeting did you attend? (Please circle): Mundelein, Barrington, Joliet, Matteson, Gary, West Chicago, Chicago.

Date Recd: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: ARNE STEGVIK

HDR File No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 118 DUNDIE AVENUE

## YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

Comments provided by the public help determine the scope of the environmental review.

City, State, Zip: BARRINGTON, IL 60010

Cc. Original - Job File

Date: January 25, 2008