

In the areas through which the current EJ&E rails pass, many of the homes receive their drinking water from ground wells. This is especially true in parts of Lake, McHenry, and Northwest Cook Counties.

Increases in rail traffic through these areas also increases the *potential* for hazardous material spills in the event of derailment or other accident. Even a small amount of leaking diesel fuel from the more numerous trains should be avoided.

Because when hazardous materials trickle into ground water they create a potentially harmful situation for the public and the environment. Many homes relying on water from wells may not have access to other water sources or to Lake Michigan water.

Ground water is very important to ecosystems throughout the area because it may eventually be released into streams, lakes, and wetlands across our area. Good quality ground water is necessary to maintain a proper habitat for animals and plant life, especially when rain is scarce.

Without even discussing CN's safety record, I feel that the increased traffic and hazardous cargo should be routed through less environmentally sensitive areas. This IS an option because alternative routes already exist and are presently in use.

*Harold M. M. M.*