

I have lived in my present house in Warrenville for the past 20 years. Before purchasing the house I reviewed the use of the E&J tracks and made informed decisions, as did anyone living near the tracks, with regard to how there presents would affect my family safety, health and quality of life.

The Sale of the E&J will have a detrimental effect on all of these. The increased traffic of longer train going at a faster speed will greatly affect noise levels, air quality as well as the privacy of my home as well as expose my family to a much greater risk of exposure to toxic materials from leakage and spills, This is compounded by the increase in train size and speed increasing the chances for derailment.

Additionally this will have a devastating effect on house prices not just along the tracks but for all the cities along the tracks. Given the real estate market this amounts to wiping out any equity that the home owner have and since for many their home is their biggest or only investment for the future, it would destroy assets necessary for their financial security that they would have worked hard to achieve.

These dangers are increase when looking at the effects on the cities near the tracks. These cities which have existed for a substantial period of time, have done development planning with regard to police, fire and ambulance response, the access of which will be severely affected. This will also affect citizens going to work as well as just shopping for there daily needs. Public and educational builds are also exposed. Warrenville has a school and little league park adjacent to the tracks. This means a much greater exposure to a large group of children.

All of the above problem will increase substantially when the railroad adds additional tracks. Some of the problems this will create are cutting into the existing space between tracks and existing homes and communities along with destroying existing yards, living spaces and eliminating buffer zone. This track expansion would also bring the track extremely close to an existing high pressure liquid petroleum pipeline running paralell to the tracks, setting up addition safety concerns.

The railroad is saying that this will decrease rail traffic in Cook County. That is ridiculous, the tracks they currently have closer to Chicago are a financial asset to them. They will use them as much as is possible either by moving their own trains through or leasing the tracks to other railroads. Rail traffic closer to Chicago will not be decreased.

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