

14283

RONDOUT ROCKLAND CORPORATION

ARTHUR M. BAKER, JR.

28839 NAGEL COURT

LAKE BLUFF, ILLINOIS 60044

827-234-0613

FAX# 847-234-0862

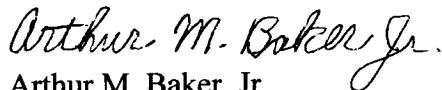
September 17, 2008

To: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Surface Transportation Board:

Enclosed you will find an article and map showing the towns along the EJ & E Railway system that Canadian National wants to buy. The town of Rondout, which is located between Lake Bluff on the east and Green Oaks/Libertyville on the west, along State Route 176 is never mentioned. I have stated before that there are 3 railway lines that converge in Rondout within 300 yards of each other. Along with all the other towns affected by the proposal for this purchase, Rondout will be affected by the increase in trains and traffic congestion and also any emergency response vehicles trying to get through the area!

Sincerely,



Arthur M. Baker, Jr.
Rondout Rockland Corporation

AMB/nap

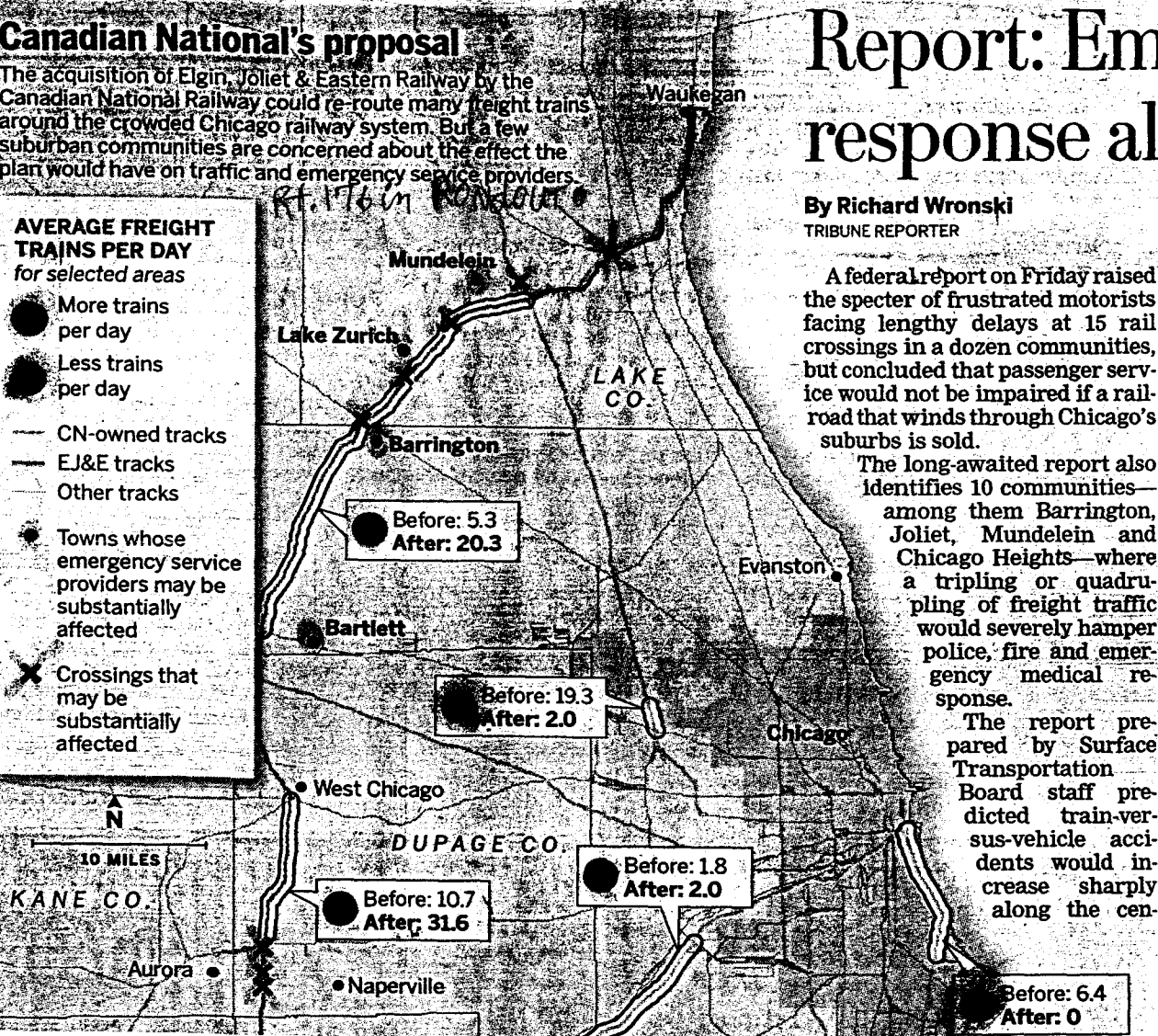
A freight train crosses Ogden Avenue in Aurora. A federal report on a proposed rail deal says a freight-traffic increase will slow suburban traffic.

Canadian National's proposal

The acquisition of Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railway could re-route many freight trains around the crowded Chicago railway system. But a few suburban communities are concerned about the effect the plan would have on traffic and emergency service providers.

AVERAGE FREIGHT TRAINS PER DAY for selected areas

- More trains per day
- Less trains per day
- CN-owned tracks
- EJ&E tracks
- Other tracks
- Towns whose emergency service providers may be substantially affected
- ✕ Crossings that may be substantially affected



Report: Emergency response also at risk

By Richard Wronski
TRIBUNE REPORTER

A federal report on Friday raised the specter of frustrated motorists facing lengthy delays at 15 rail crossings in a dozen communities, but concluded that passenger service would not be impaired if a railroad that winds through Chicago's suburbs is sold.

The long-awaited report also identifies 10 communities—among them Barrington, Joliet, Mundelein and Chicago Heights—where a tripling or quadrupling of freight traffic would severely hamper police, fire and emergency medical response.

The report prepared by Surface Transportation Board staff predicted train-versus-vehicle accidents would increase sharply along the cen-

tury-old railroad—from more than one a year to more than six annually.

The report was anxiously awaited by scores of communities, including Chicago, that stand to win or lose from the Canadian National Railway's controversial \$300 million plan to buy the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway to divert freight traffic around the city's congested rail corridor.

The EJ&E railroad rings the suburbs in a 198-mile arc stretching from Mundelein to Joliet to northwest Indiana.

The purchase is touted by CN and some experts as a potential boon to the transportation industry and economy. Chicago officials strongly support the deal because of the economic impact and prospect of reduced freight traffic, which is expected to result in fewer accidents on rail lines in the city.

But fearing more freight trains in their backyards and outlying suburban down towns, vocal opponents have rallied by the hundreds in recent months to fight the plan.

While viewed as an impor-

PLEASE SEE RAILROAD » PAGE 13