

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 THOMAS MARTELLO

11 JANUARY 15, 2008

12 HOLIDAY INN

13 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE

14 **Surface Transportation Board** MATTESON, ILLINOIS
15 **CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087**

16 **Log and Distribution**

17 **Date Rcvd:** _____

18 **HDR File No:** _____

19 **Scanned (Initial):** _____

20 **STAECT #:** _____

21 **Cc: Original - Job File**
22 _____
23 _____

24 **HDR**

CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

Telephone: 312-781-9111

REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

1 MR. MARTELLO: Tom M-a-r-t-e-l-l-o.
2 City of Chicago Heights Fire Department, 83 East
3 Joe Orr Road, Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411.

4 Okay. The city of Chicago Heights
5 portion of the existing EJ&J to be taken over by
6 the CN here encompasses an area along the line
7 from Western Avenue to Cottage Grove Avenue which
8 is quite along distance.

9 The eastern portion of that area is
10 heavy industrial area. And the mid portion of
11 that area is both heavily residential population
12 on the north and on the south.

13 My main concern from a fire
14 protection emergency medical service delivery
15 point of view is how the increased rail traffic
16 which appears to be about quadrupled from what it
17 is existing at today will affect our ability to
18 deliver services to persons on either side of
19 that line.

20 The problem that I see with the
21 increased traffic is that we have only one
22 location where we can get underneath the railroad
23 located at Butler and Birmingham Streets. That
24 is a rather old underpass probably build in the

1 early 1900s whose engineering capabilities to
2 handle the load that exists in today's modern
3 railways may be questionable. Because of when it
4 was built in the 1900s, it does not have a very
5 high clearance and/or a very wide clearance.
6 Modern fire apparatus in emergency ambulances are
7 much higher in clearance requirements and are
8 wider obviously in width.

9 My concern is or question I should
10 say is is the CN anticipating improvements to
11 such underpasses. I think at this point in time
12 that is one of the underpasses that should be
13 considered for major improvement to assure
14 emergency service delivery to the heavily
15 populated residential areas north and south of
16 the EJ&J line.

17 Other concerns that we would have are
18 the municipalities that traverse the city of
19 Chicago Height primarily down Route 1 otherwise
20 known as Chicago Road. Many of the communities
21 south of the EJ&J line depend upon access to
22 St. James Hospital located at Chicago Road and
23 Route 30.

24 They are also going to be

1 experiencing delays in getting their patients to
2 the hospital in a proper manner. And the
3 facilitation of that could be made through
4 improved underpasses or additional overpasses
5 along that EJ&J line between Western Avenue to
6 Cottage Grove.

7 Okay. Other concern is that we would
8 have from a public safety point of view are the
9 potential increase of hazardous materials
10 traversing the line from what appears to be the
11 north south come-off area from the Illinois
12 Central CN line in Matteson to Gary. Looks like
13 a majority of those materials going to the
14 petrochemical industry and steel industry are
15 going to be going that way.

16 There are existing classification
17 yards and/or sidings in the city of Chicago
18 Heights area that would more than likely be
19 utilized for sorting out trains and sending them
20 along their way.

21 While these containers containing
22 whatever are sitting there, they're certainly
23 subject to leakage or damage or whatever by those
24 rail operations. And we would be interested to

1 know what kind of plan would exist to address
2 such issues should they arise. Okay. I think
3 that's about it.

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