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November 6, 2009

Mr. Matthew T. Wallen
Director
Office of Public Assistance, Governmental
Affairs & Compliance
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Director Wallen:

Thank you very much for your visit to the EJ&E earlier this week. My colleagues and I appreciated the opportunity to brief you, Chairman Elliott, and Ray Atkins about the transaction and ongoing implementation efforts, as well as to acquaint you with CN's operations generally.

I just wanted to follow-up on your EJ&E tour and respond to a press account following your November 4 visit to Barrington and Aurora in which officials claimed that CN has not yet provided hazardous materials training to first responders. As you are aware from the information CN provides in our quarterly environmental mitigation status reports, this is not the case.

Specifically, CN told representatives of the EJ&E communities in a series of meetings that we would deliver emergency responder outreach training in three different ways.

- *TransCAER programs* – This is a four-hour PowerPoint-driven presentation aimed at all responders who wish to attend. The program covers the basics of railroad emergency response, such as who to call, hazards to be aware of, how the railroad is structured, and how it responds. TransCAER programs are being scheduled and delivered, with 23 presentations made to date and a total of 269 responders in attendance. Another 23 presentations have been scheduled for November 2009 – February 2010, and we expect to see an increase in these presentations during the winter months.

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- *Railroad Emergency Response (RER) course* – This is a two-day course delivered in the community to HAZMAT responders and Incident Commanders. The course is PowerPoint-driven, and also covers tactical response to derailments including unified incident command and an overview of CN's emergency response plan. We have offered this course to any EJ&E community that requests it. To date, no communities have requested this training, which is a logical follow-up to the TransCAER program. We expect to begin delivery of the RER course in the spring.
- *Tank Car Specialist (TCS) course* – This is a one-week course in Pueblo, Colorado at the railroad industry's Security and Emergency Response Training Center. CN invited two responders from each of the EJ&E communities with prerequisite training (HAZMAT Technician level) or their response service provider, with CN covering participants' travel expenses and training costs. The course dealt with emergency product removal, tank car damage assessment, product transfer methods, and containment of leaks. We have completed this portion of our emergency responder training, with two EJ&E community courses (August 16 – 21 and September 20 – 25). As documented in our quarterly report filed at the Board on October 10 on implementation of environmental and safety mitigation measures, a total of 47 emergency responders with appropriate prerequisite training from EJ&E communities – including Barrington and Aurora – participated in this extensive course.

CN takes very seriously the agreements we made when we took over the EJ&E line. As described more fully in our monitoring reports to the Board, we have been making significant progress in fulfilling those commitments and we are working to expeditiously implement the mitigation conditions imposed by the Board.

We will be reaching out to Barrington and Aurora officials to ensure they are aware of the actions CN has been taking with respect to training of emergency responders and other mitigation activities.

Please let me know if you need any additional information on our hazardous materials training or other implementation initiatives.

Sincerely,



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