

Fact Sheet: Englewood Expansion Project

The Facts

- Diesel Pollution triggers 20,000 asthma attacks, 680 heart attacks and 570 premature deaths every year in Illinois.
- Chicago ranks as one of the worst metropolitan areas for health impacts from diesel pollution.
- Chicago has one of the highest asthma mortality rates in the country.
- Englewood residents are being exposed to serious environmental health risks. Children in this neighborhood have much higher asthma rates than city and national averages, and asthma can be aggravated by diesel soot.



The Problem: The Norfolk Southern 47th St. Rail Yard Expansion Will Add to Diesel Pollution in Englewood

The 47th Street Rail Yard doesn't just handle rail; it is an intermodal "terminal" where freight is transferred from rail to trucks and vice versa. Currently, the rail yard ends at Garfield Boulevard; Norfolk Southern is proposing to extend the yard to 61st Street. This will increase the size of the yard by 57% and cause a significant increase in truck traffic in and out of the yard.

As part of the expansion, Norfolk Southern has sought to purchase 104 parcels of land owned by the City of Chicago and almost 100 privately owned lots. As a result, 84 acres of residential and green space will be lost to industrial use.

This expansion would lead to a significant increase in diesel soot pollution, worsening an already serious problem with air quality and asthma in the Englewood community.

The Solution:

Sustainable Englewood Initiatives is asking the City of Chicago to demand that Norfolk Southern commit to undertaking a list of reasonable actions before the City completes the sale of public land to Norfolk Southern:

- 1. Quality of Life and Public Health** — Test, monitor and mitigate diesel pollution and lead contamination; repair damage from increased truck traffic to roads, sidewalks and homes; and create a plan to reduce noise pollution.
- 2. High-Quality Green Space** — New and/or replacement recreational space could include walking and bike trails.
- 3. Buffer Zones** — Distancing the worst noise and air pollution areas from homes and businesses; fostering community goals for local economic development.

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