

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad

Petitioner,

vs.

Grays Harbor County

Respondent

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) DOCKET NO. TR-110162
) *Revised*
) PETITION FOR THE CLOSURE
) OF A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
) CROSSING
)
)
)
)
)
) USDOT CROSSING NO. 096641X
) N. 17th Street
)

2011 FEB 19 AM 11:03

Prior to submitting a Petition for the Closure of a Highway-Rail Grade Crossing to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-865 (2) requires:

All actions of the utilities and transportation commission under statutes administered as of December 12, 1975, are exempted, except the following:

- (2) Authorization of the openings or closing of any highway/railroad grade crossing, or the direction of physical connection of the line of one railroad with that of another;

Please attach sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the SEPA requirement has been fulfilled. For additional information on SEPA requirements contact the Department of Ecology.

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve the closure of a public at-grade highway-railroad crossing as described in this petition.

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

<p>Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad</p> <hr/> <p>Petitioner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Steve Helly</i></p> <hr/> <p>Signature</p> <p>411 N. 3rd Street</p> <hr/> <p>Street Address</p> <p>Elma, WA 98541</p>

City, State and Zip Code

Same

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Steve L. Hefley

Contact Person Name

(360) 482-4994; steve.hefley@railamerica.com

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Grays Harbor County

Respondent

100 West Broadway, Suite 31

Street Address

Montesano, WA 98563

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Russ Esses

Contact Person Name

(360) 249-4222; pwd@co.grays-harbor.wa

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway N. 17th Street

2. Existing railroad Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad

3. USDOT Crossing No. 096641X

4. Located in the ___ 1/4 of the ___ 1/4 of Sec. 34 , Twp. 18 , Range 06 W.M.

5. GPS location, if known: Latitude 47.00717; Longitude -123.4128

7. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 48.90

8. City Elma County Grays Harbor

Section 4 – Crossing Traffic

1. Type of public road at the crossing State County City
 Port State Park Other _____

2. Average daily vehicle traffic over the tracks 90 Vehicle speed limit **25 MPH**

3. Trucks (commercial vehicles) are what percent of average daily traffic 10.2%

4. Number of school buses over the crossing each day 4

5. Name of railroad(s) operating at crossing **Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad**

6. Type of railroad at crossing Common Carrier Logging Industrial
 Passenger Excursion

7. Type of tracks at crossing Main Line Siding or Spur

8. Number of tracks at crossing One (1)

9. Average daily train traffic, freight 6 trains/24 hours

Authorized freight train speed **40 mph** _____

Operated freight train speed **30 mph (typ.)** _____

10. Average daily train traffic, passenger N/A

Authorized passenger train speed N/A _____

Operated passenger train speed N/A _____

Section 5 – Description of Closure

1. Describe in detail the reasons for closing the crossing: **Improving public safety by reducing the potential for train/vehicle crossing accidents, reducing railroad maintenance cost and improving railroad operations.**

2. Describe the area currently served by the crossing, including the approximate number of homes or businesses that might be affected by the closure: **17th St. connects to W. Martin St. To travel Between W. Main St. downtown Elma to W. Martin St. access is north on either N. 16th St. or offset N. 17th St. to W. Martin, then to N. 17th St. to cross the railroad crossing which then ends approximately 2 blocks north of the railroad crossing at Bailey Rd.**

3. How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the crossing proposed for closure? **Approximately 1,200 feet.**

4. Describe the alternate access route, including distance and driving time: **The alternate access route would be using N. 13th Street to cross the railroad tracks from the downtown area (Main Street) to Bailey Rd. and back south on 17th St.**

The worst-case additional driving distance is about 1 mile, or about 3-4 minutes at the posted 25 mph speed limit.

Section 6 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the location of the highway and railroad in the vicinity of the crossing. Include the parcels of private property located on both sides of the highway for a distance of 500' from the crossing and the name and mailing address of each property owner.

See Exhibit Print-N. 17th St.

Section 7 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the closure of the following crossing.

USDOT Crossing No. 096641X

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree the grade crossing should be closed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at _____, Washington, on the _____ day of

_____, 20 ____.

Printed name of Respondent

Signature of Respondent's Representative

Title

Phone number and e-mail address

Mailing address