

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

TRANSALTA CENTRALIA
GENERATION, LLC,

Petitioner,

Requesting Exemption from WAC 480-60-
040

DOCKET TR-050645

ORDER 02

AMENDING ORDER 01

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 20, 2005, TransAlta Centralia Generation, LLC, (TransAlta) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting exemption from railroad clearance rules in WAC 480-60-040, which generally require an overhead clearance of at least 22 feet 6 inches. The petition related to construction of an overhead coal conveyer assembly that would pass over a loop track within the TransAlta facility located at 913 Big Hanaford Road in Centralia, Washington.
- 2 On June 29, 2005, the Commission entered Order 01 granting the petition for exemption from WAC 480-60-040 subject to the condition that TransAlta install cautionary signs indicating to rail traffic traveling under the structure that the clearance was substandard. TransAlta installed and continues to maintain the required signs.
- 3 A recent inspection of the facility conducted by Commission staff (Staff) revealed that, because the coal conveyer was no longer needed, TransAlta transitioned the structure into a pedestrian pathway. The structure now provides employees of TransAlta with a safer, grade-separated means to cross over the railroad tracks and eliminates the need to travel over the tracks at grade.
- 4 Because this is a non-material change to the original structure and subsequent Commission Order, Staff recommends the Commission amend Order 01, changing any reference of “overhead coal conveyer” to “overhead pedestrian pathway.” Staff further recommends that the conditions specified in Order 01 should otherwise remain unchanged.

DISCUSSION

5 We agree with Staff’s recommendation. Amending the language in Order 01 is both
appropriate and reasonable because the change will more accurately reflect the structure
to which the exemption applies. Accordingly, the Commission amends Order 01 by
changing all references to “overhead coal conveyer” to “overhead pedestrian pathway.”

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with
the authority to regulate the rules, regulations and practices of public service
companies, including railroad companies, within the state of Washington.¹
- 7 (2) Staff investigated the previous exemption of WAC 480-60-040 granted to
TransAlta and recommends that the Order be amended to reflect current
conditions.
- 8 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on
December 19, 2019.
- 9 (4) After giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the
Commission finds that amending Order 01 is in the public interest.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT Order 01 in this Docket, which granted a
permanent exemption from the clearance requirements in WAC 480-60-040 at TransAlta
Centralia Generation, LLC, is amended as follows:

- 10 (1) All references to “overhead coal conveyer” are changed to “overhead pedestrian
pathway.” All other terms and conditions specified in Order 01 remain unchanged.

¹ Chapter 80.01.040 RCW, Chapter 81.01 RCW, Chapter 81.04 RCW, Chapter 81.53 RCW.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective December 19, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary