

Office of Administration

Mayor Janda Volkmer



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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.
MAY 5 1999

April 30, 1999

Secretary Carole Washburn
WUTC
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket No. TR-981102

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Dear Ms. Washburn:

This letter is in response to your April 1, 1999 notification regarding possible changes to Chapter 480-62 WAC. The Town is particularly interested in the following issues:

1. Railroad activities that impact the surrounding community

The Town would like to receive notification when major maintenance activities (i.e. rail replacement), track realignment, or changes in crossing improvements occur.

2. Identity and contact information of railroad police

Citizens call the Town several times each year to report safety problems that pose hazards to trains such as rail bed gravel washed out, trespassers, and dangerous trees. It is unclear to Town staff who in the railroad we should report these safety issues to, and how the railroad would want this information conveyed - FAX, letter, telephone. Some clarification would be appreciated.

3. Crossing surface standards

There are three crossings in Town that vary in quality. One is very smooth and made of concrete, the second is an overhead wooden pedestrian crossing with steep steps and several gaps in the chainlink fencing, and the third is an at grade wooden crossing with large gaps between uneven planking. The Town has requested that the railroad examine the crossings and repair them as needed, however the crossings have been found to meet standards. It is unclear to us what the current standards require.

4. Whistle bans

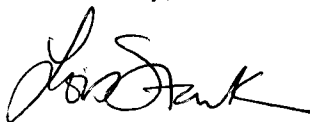
Many residents in Town would like to institute a night-time whistle ban, however, because of safety concerns we have not pursued this issue. The Town would like to see specific standards established that would help us evaluate a possible whistle ban. In particular, we would like standards relating to the types of supplemental safety devices would be required before a ban could be instituted.

5. Grade crossing improvements

Because of the varying quality of our three crossings, the Town would also like to see a better process being developed to allow us to request improvements at these crossings. We would particularly like the process to include the provision of public input into the evaluation of crossing improvements.

Please include the Town on the mailing list for this proposal. I plan to attend the May 27th workshop to learn more about this rulemaking. Please feel free to contact me at (253) 581-1900 if you need any additional information about this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois Stark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lois Stark, Assistant Town Administrator