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STATE OF WASH
UTIL. AND TRAILER
COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2005

To: TR-030559 file
TR-030560 file
TR-030561 file
TR-030562 file

From: Ahmer Nizam, Regulatory Analyst

On April 30, 2003, the Commission entered four orders that temporarily changed the method of traffic control at four railroad-highway grade crossings in Centralia, Washington. Tacoma Rail is the primary operator on the rail line where the crossings are located. Each order required Tacoma Rail train crews to stop and flag trains across the following grade crossings listed in the corresponding orders:

- TR-030559, Main Street
- TR-030560, Locust Street
- TR-030561, 1st Street
- TR-030562, Alder Street

The orders were a result of the signals being out of compliance with FRA rules governing the operation of signals. According to each order, the requirement for Tacoma Rail to stop and flag trains across the crossings is only in effect until the crossings can be brought into compliance with the rules in CFR 234. Subsequently, the Commission entered orders in Dockets TR-040296 (1st Street), TR-040297 (Main Street), TR-040298 (locust Street), and TR-040299 (Alder Street) approving upgrades proposed at each crossing to achieve this compliance.

On March 11, 2005, Ed Harper of Commission Staff was on site at all four crossing as they were put into service. Mr. Harper also reviewed each of the four crossings for compliance with FRA regulations governing signal operations. He found all of the crossing signal systems to be consistent with the Commission orders approving their installation, as well as compliant with applicable federal rules.



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 24, 2005

Dennis Dean, General Manager
Tacoma Rail
P.O. Box 11007
Tacoma, WA 98411

Subject: Centralia Grade Crossings

Dear Mr. Dean:

On April 30, 2003, the Commission entered four orders requiring Tacoma Rail crews to stop and flag rail traffic across four railroad-highway grade crossing in Centralia, Washington. The affected crossings and corresponding Commission Docket numbers are:

Main Street, USDOT Crossing 396769W	Docket No. TR-030559
Locust Street, USDOT Crossing 396770R	Docket No. TR-030560
1 st Street, USDOT Crossing 396768P	Docket No. TR-030561
Alder Street, USDOT Crossing 396776G	Docket No. TR-030562

As you know, the orders were a result of the crossing signals being out of compliance with Federal Railroad Administration rules governing their operation. According to each order, the requirement for Tacoma Rail to stop and flag trains across the crossings is only in effect until the warning signals at each crossing are brought into compliance with the rules in CFR 234. Subsequently, the Commission entered orders in Dockets TR-040296 (1st Street), TR-040297 (Main Street), TR-040298 (locust Street), and TR-040299 (Alder Street) approving upgrades at each crossing that would eliminate the stopping requirement.



On March 11, 2005, Commission Staff have verified that the newly upgraded signals at the 1st Street, Main Street, Alder Street, and Locust Street grade crossings in Centralia, Washington have met the conditions of the Commission orders applicable to each of the four crossings. Therefore, the requirement within the orders for Tacoma Rail crews to stop and flag across the roadways is no longer necessary.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Ahmer Nizam of Commission Staff at (360) 664-1345.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole J. Washburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary

cc: Gabe Neal, Supervisory Railroad Safety Specialist
Federal Railroad Administration, Region 8