

[Service Date April 20, 2011]

April 20, 2011

Steven Hefley, General Manager
Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad Company
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Elma, WA 98541

Steve Pettit, Director of Community Development
City of Elma
PO Box E
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Russell Esses, County Engineer
Grays Harbor County
Department of Public Services
100 West Broadway, Suite 31
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Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director – Transportation Safety
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Dockets TR-110157, TR-110159, TG-110160, TR-110161, and TR-110162 – Petitions on Behalf of Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad to Close Five Highway Rail Grade Crossings in Elma and Grays Harbor County, Washington*

Dear Sirs and Madam,

By letters dated April 12, 2011, and April 19, 2011, Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad have requested additional time to negotiate a possible settlement with the City of Elma and Grays Harbor County regarding its petitions to close five grade crossings within or nearby to the city limits of Elma. The City of Elma, Grays Harbor County, and Commission Staff have

submitted letters supporting the railroad's request for a 60 day extension of time before the Commission initiates a formal adjudication of the closure petitions.

The Commission's primary interest in railroad grade crossings is ensuring public safety. When evaluating petitions to modify or close grade crossings, we encourage informal resolution of disputed issues so long as public safety is not compromised. In these cases, all interested parties agree that providing additional time to negotiate may result in a settlement, avoiding the need for a formal hearing on the petitions. I agree that is in all parties' interests to work together to resolve the concerns raised in opposition to the railroad's petitions and will hold the petitions in abeyance until mid-June 2011.

Please provide me with a joint update on your settlement negotiations no later than Friday, June 10, 2011. If the parties are able to reach a mutually agreeable resolution of the issues presented by the railroad's petitions, the Commission can take up the matters through its Open Meeting process. If disputed issues remain, the Commission's Administrative Law Division will begin the adjudicative process and set a date for a prehearing conference.

Sincerely,

David Danner
Executive Directory and Secretary

cc: Daniel O. Glenn, Attorney (for City of Elma)
James Baker, Attorney (for Grays Harbor County)
Frona Woods, Assistant Attorney General (for Commission Staff)
Michael Fassio, Assistant Attorney General (for Commission Staff)