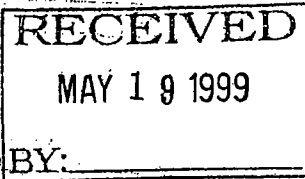


MAY 18 1999



**Stakeholder Workshop  
Discussion Paper 1  
Chapter 480-62 WAC  
TR-981102  
Railroad Companies Operations  
05/27/99**

**Dear Stakeholder:**

This cover sheet was inadvertently left out of our previous mailing . It explains the issue paper enclosed with the May 17, 1999 Notice of Rulemaking Workshop. This discussion paper will be used to facilitate discussion at the May 27, 1999, stakeholder meeting.

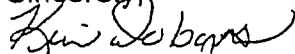
The discussion paper is organized into three parts: issues presented by existing rules, new issues, and issues raised by stakeholders. The first part contains Staff's perspective on possible changes to the existing rules and questions Staff poses to the stakeholders. Staff changes under consideration include reorganizing the chapter and rewriting or revising rules in a plain English format for clarity. Staff also poses a number of questions to determine the need for changes in the rules to ensure the rules address a wide range of stakeholder needs. **Each existing rule is included as it currently appears in Chapter 480-62 WAC.**

The second part contains other issues Staff would like to discuss to determine if new or additional rules should be developed. Each issue includes a brief discussion of why Staff is raising the issue for discussion among stakeholders.

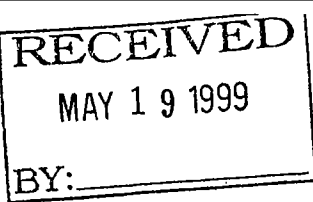
The last part contains other issues raised by stakeholders during the earlier written comment phase. The Staff presents its views on the issues and seeks further comments from stakeholders.

Staff encourages stakeholders to attend the May 27, 1999 workshop and participate in informal discussions about these issues. Stakeholders will have additional opportunities to comment on these issues.

Sincerely,



Kim Dobyns, Team Lead, Docket No. TR-981102  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission



SERVICE DATE

MAY 18 1999

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 753-6423 • TTY (360) 586-8203

May 17, 1999

**NOTICE OF RULEMAKING WORKSHOP**  
**(9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 27, 1999)**

RE: Railroad Operations Rulemaking - Chapter 480-62 WAC  
Docket No. TR-981102

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:


On March 31, 1999, the Commission filed with the Code Revisor a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) noticing its intention to review railroad company operations rules for possible changes, additions or deletions. The Commission provided notice of this rulemaking to all parties that Commission Staff identified as having a potential interest, and requested comments by April 30, 1999. Many comments have been received.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will conduct a workshop regarding possible changes, additions, or deletions to rules regarding railroad company operations on Thursday, May 27, 1999 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Commission's Hearing Room #206, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, Washington. The Commission's teleconference bridge line will be available for this workshop. However, a limited number of teleconference ports are available and will be available first-come, first-served. The conference bridge line is (360) 664-3846.**

The workshop will consist of discussions as identified in the enclosed issue paper. Other issues may be discussed if time allows.

Commission Staff strongly encourages you to participate. Your participation is welcome via written comments and/or attendance at the workshop. If you have any questions or comments regarding the rulemaking proceeding or the workshop, please contact Kim Dobyms at (360) 664-1242, or via e-mail at [kdobyms@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:kdobyms@wutc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Secretary

Encl.



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### 3. Blocking of Crossings

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**Blocking of Crossings:** The Commission Staff has received many complaints concerning the blocking of crossings throughout the state. The issues involved in blocked crossings are complex because the legitimate needs of communities often compete with the legitimate needs of railroads. Local geography and how communities use crossings also make matters complicated, as does the amount of time needed for the procedure for breaking trains at crossings and reconnecting them.

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**Question to Stakeholders:** Are there some basic concepts which can be formalized to eliminate a substantial number of blocked crossings? For other situations, are there considerations or procedures that can help reduce the problem?

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### 4. Remote Control Trains

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**Remote Control Trains:** Certain railroads are operating trains in certain situations by remote control. There are no specific rules governing these types of operations in Washington State.

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**Question for stakeholders:** What type of concerns surround remote control operations? Would rules alleviate these concerns? To what level does the FRA address remote control train operations? Finally, should railroads notify the Commission when they plan to use remote controlled trains?

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### 5. Motor Track Cars

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**Motor Track Cars:** Commission Staff is concerned that operators of non-railroad owned track equipment operating on the rails may be unaware of safety rules concerning at-grade crossings.

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**Question to Stakeholders:** What requirements, if any, should be imposed on railroad companies to ensure private operators will operate safely at grade crossings?

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