Service Date: September 24, 2026

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of RITZVILLE WAREHOUSE COMPANY, Petitioner. Seeking Exemption from the Provisions of WAC 480-60-040 relating to overhead clearances rules and WAC 480-60-050 relating to side clearance rules	DOCKET TR-210307 ORDER 02 AMENDING ORDER 01

BACKGROUND

1 On May 10, 2021, Columbia Grain International (Columbia Grain) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition (Petition) requesting exemption from WAC 480-60-050, which requires railroad companies to maintain a side clearance of at least 8 feet 6 inches from the center of the track to the nearest structure. Columbia Grain also requested exemption from WAC 480-60-040, which requires railroad companies to maintain an overhead clearance of at least 22 feet, 6 inches from the top of the rail. These exemptions were requested for Columbia Grain's facilities in Lind and Shrag.

2 On June 3, 2021, the Commission entered Order 01 granting the Petition subject to the following conditions:

(a) Columbia Grain must maintain a "Caution Watch for Grain Spout" sign on the approach to the overhead clearance impairment at the Lind facility.

(b) Columbia Grain must maintain a standard "No Clearance" sign on the approach to the steel ladder side clearance impairment at the Lind facility.

(c) Columbia Grain must maintain a "Caution Watch for Grain Spout" sign on the approach to the overhead clearance impairments at the Schrag facility.

(d) Columbia Grain must maintain standard "No Clearance" signs at both approaches to the staircase at the Schrag facility.

(e) Columbia Grain must paint the steel staircase "safety yellow" at the Schrag facility to contrast with the building and clearly identify the point of clearance impairment.

(f) Columbia Grain must maintain overhead lighting at Lind and Schrag for operations conducted during hours of darkness.

(g) BNSF Railway and Columbia Basin Railroad must issue safety notices in their local operating instructions and post the notice in timetables when reissued.

3 During a recent routine inspection of the facilities, Commission staff (Staff) found that the locations of the restricted overhead and side clearances remain unchanged and the required signage is in place. However, the company is now operating under different corporate ownership.

4 On July 7, 2026, the current facility owner, Ritzville Warehouse Company, submitted a letter to the Commission regarding its corporate name change, requesting that the company's name be updated. In addition, Ritzville Warehouse Company advised that rail services at the Schrag facility are now being provided by Jaguar Transportation rather than Columbia Basin Railroad.

5 Staff reviewed the request and recommended the Commission amend Order 01 as follows:

(a) All references to Columbia Grain International should be updated to Ritzville Warehouse Company.

(b) Condition 2(g) should be amended to state:

BNSF Railway and Jaguar Transportation must provide written notification of the restricted clearances to their employees and maintain information about the restricted clearances in their operating documents.

(c) The conditions specified in Order 01 should otherwise remain unchanged.

DISCUSSION

6 We agree with Staff's recommendation. Amending Order 01 is appropriate because of a change in ownership of the facilities and the new railroad services provider at Ritzville Warehouse Company's Shrag facility. Accordingly, the Commission amends Order 01 as recommended by Staff in paragraph 5.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public service companies, including railroad companies, within the state of Washington. RCW 80.01.040, Chapter 81.01 RCW, Chapter 81.04 RCW, and Chapter 81.53 RCW.

8 (2) Staff investigated the request and recommends that the Order be amended to reflect current the facility ownership and the new railroad service provider at the Shrag facility, as described in paragraph 5.

9 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2026.

10 (4) After giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds that amending the previous Order is in the public interest.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

11 (1) Order 01 in this docket, which granted a permanent exemption from the clearance requirements in WAC 480-60-040 and WAC 480-60-050 to the Columbia Grain International, is amended as follows:

(a) All references to Columbia Grain International are changed to Ritzville Warehouse Company. The railroad service provider at the Schrag facility is changed from Columbia Basin Railroad to Jaguar Transportation.

(b) Condition 2(g) is amended to state:

BNSF Railway and Jaguar Transportation must provide written notification of the restricted clearances to their employees and maintain information about the restricted clearances in their operating documents.

(c) In the event of changes to the facility status, ownership, or the area of the restricted clearances, Ritzville Warehouse Company, BNSF, or Jaguar Transportation must notify the Commission within 60 days.

(d) All other conditions specified in Order 01 remain the same.

12 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter, BNSF Railway Co., and Jaguar Transportation, to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

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

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 24, 2026.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP
Executive Director and Secretary