

[Service Date October 3, 2003]

October 3, 2003

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Friday, October 24, 2003)**

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Set for Tuesday, October 28, 2003)**

RE: Remote Control Locomotive Operations Draft Rules.
Docket No. TR-021465

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

Following the stakeholder workshop held on August 12, 2003, Commission Staff has completed a second discussion draft of WAC 480-62-320 Remote Controlled Operations. In developing this draft, Staff considered the written comments submitted by interested persons, as well as the oral comments from the stakeholder workshop held on March 19, 2003, and August 12, 2003. The draft rules are available for inspection on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/021465. The Commission will send a paper copy of the draft rules or will send the proposal via electronic mail, if requested.

In this second discussion draft, Staff has modified the discussion draft prepared and made available on the website in June 2003. Staff has made the following changes to the June 2003 discussion draft:

- Added definitions of "remote control area" and "remote control zone" based upon language in railroad general codes of operation;
- Modified reporting requirements for remote control areas and remote control zones

operating in the state by requiring 60 days notification of intent to begin operations, and streamlining the information that must be reported;

- Removed a draft rule requiring installation of signs prior to initiating remote controlled operations;
- Removed a draft rule requiring construction of physical barriers prior to implementation of a remote control zone;
- Modified the wording of draft rules addressing point protection at crossings and where trains can enter main line track.
- Included a draft rule providing for Commission staff initiation of periodic workshops concerning the safety of remote-control areas or zones, including representatives of the railroad, railroad employees, governmental representatives, union members, and other persons affected by remote-controlled operations.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

We encourage your attendance and participation in a stakeholder workshop. The workshop will be held **Tuesday, October 28, 2003** in Room 206 at the Commission's headquarters, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Free parking is available. The Commission's address is:

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

If you need additional information please call Mike Rowswell at (360) 664-1265 or e-mail at mrowswel@wutc.wa.gov.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the remote control locomotive operations draft rules must be filed with the Commission no later than **Friday, October 24, 2003**. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the

comments. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@wutc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (TR-021465)
- The commenting party's name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments may be by mailing/delivering an electronic copy on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at www.wutc.wa.gov/021465.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will always accept a paper document. The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary