

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY)	
)	DOCKET NO. TR-011336
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
vs.)	TO UPGRADE WARNING
)	DEVICES AT HICKLIN ROAD
)	
PUGET SOUND AND PACIFIC)	D.O.T. 096535P
RAILROAD)	
)	W.U.T.C. 40C 3.10
Respondent)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 26, 2001, Grays Harbor County filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of Hicklin Road and the respondent's tracks, in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 20, Township 18 N, Range 5 W, W.M. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.

- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

DISCUSSION

- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, Hicklin Road is classified as a minor collector road, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a speed limit of 25 MPH. Sight distance at the crossing is limited for the south-bound approach due to a roadway curve, at which the crossing is not visible until motorists are approximately 100 feet from the tracks. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 500 vehicles, including 50 trucks and two school bus trips. Daily traffic through the crossing in 20 years is expected to reach 610 vehicles.

- 4 The Respondent maintains a single main track through the crossing. Daily train traffic through the crossing averages two trains with a maximum timetable speed of 25 MPH.

- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of standard crossbucks, stop signs, and advance warning signs. Petitioner proposes to upgrade warning devices at the crossing through the installation of shoulder-mounted flashing light signals and gates. In addition to the flashing lights and gates, the plans submitted with the petition

indicate that an “active advance warning” sign will also be installed on the south-bound approach to the crossing. The purpose of the sign is to warn motorists approaching the crossing that a train is occupying or approaching the crossing ahead. The installations are being proposed in the interest of enhancing safety for the motoring public.

6 Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

7 The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been fully advised in the matter. They believe that granting the petition, subject to the conditions set forth below, is in the public interest, and direct the Secretary to issue the Order.

ORDER

8 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of Grays Harbor County to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing located at the intersection of Hicklin Road and the tracks of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad in Grays Harbor County, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The installations must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
- (2) All traffic control devices must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (3) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the US Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (4) Upon completion of the installations authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the installations is subject to a compliance inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the changes are in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 31st of October, 2001.

THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary