

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	)	DOCKET NO. TR-011337
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
	)	TO UPGRADE WARNING
vs.	)	DEVICES AT ELMA-HICKLIN
	)	ROAD WEST
PUGET SOUND AND PACIFIC	)	
RAILROAD	)	D.O.T. 096539S
	)	
Respondent	)	W.U.T.C. 40C 4.80
.....	)	

**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 Elma-Hicklin Road West and the respondent's tracks, in the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 16, 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, Elma-Hicklin Road West is classified as a minor collector road, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a speed limit of 40 MPH. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 719 vehicles, including 108 trucks and eight school bus trips. Daily traffic through the crossing in 20 years is expected to reach 877 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 crossbuck and advance warning signs. Petitioner proposes to upgrade warning devices at the crossing through the installation of shoulder-mounted flashing light signals and gates. 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 Elma-  
Hicklin Road West 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 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2001.

THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary