



TR-071585

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July 13, 2007

Kathy Hunter
Utilities and Transportation Commission
Rail Safety
P O Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED
JUL 18 2007
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Re: Request for close clearance exemption for existing loading platform under WAC 480-60-050

The loading platform in question is in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) Auburn Yard, near the intersection of 21st St. and A St. The platform is used to load heavy equipment onto work trains. In the event of an emergency, this facility becomes essential for moving construction equipment. The loading platform has been in operation for over 60 years and needs to remain in operation as is. For this reason we wish to apply for a close clearance exemption in order to keep this vital facility functional.

The center of the rail line at its closest is 6'0" from the platform which stands 3'8" above the top of rail. This is 1'3" less than the 7'3" required for that height. This clearance is necessary in order to be able to load flat rail cars with construction equipment. "No Clearance" signs have been installed to indicate that there is no additional clearance between the cars and the platform.

Attached is a sketch of the loading platform and the corresponding clearance violation. I have also included a track chart showing the location of the platform in relation to the rest of the Auburn yard, as well as photographs of the platform. Please consider our request for this exemption with the knowledge that the safety of our employees is our greatest concern.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Nick Norman. He can be reached by telephone at (206) 625-6438 or by e-mail at Nicholas.Norman@BNSF.com

Respectfully,

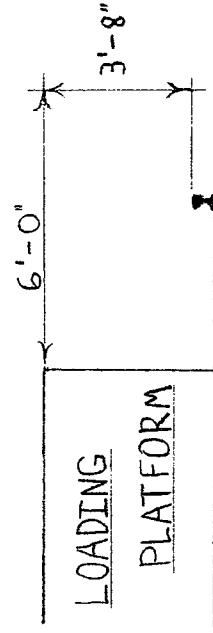
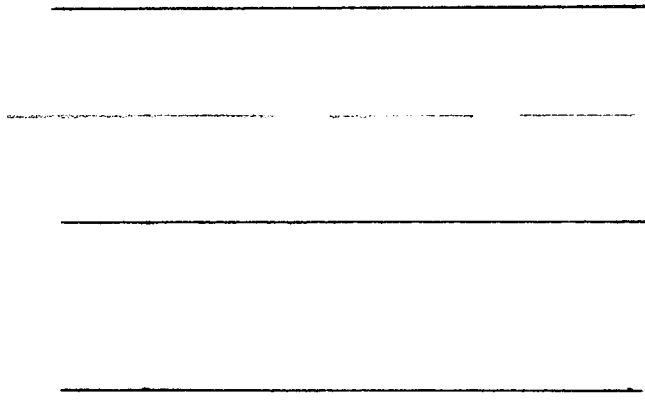
Danniel MacDonald, P.E.

RAMP

LOADING
PLATFORM

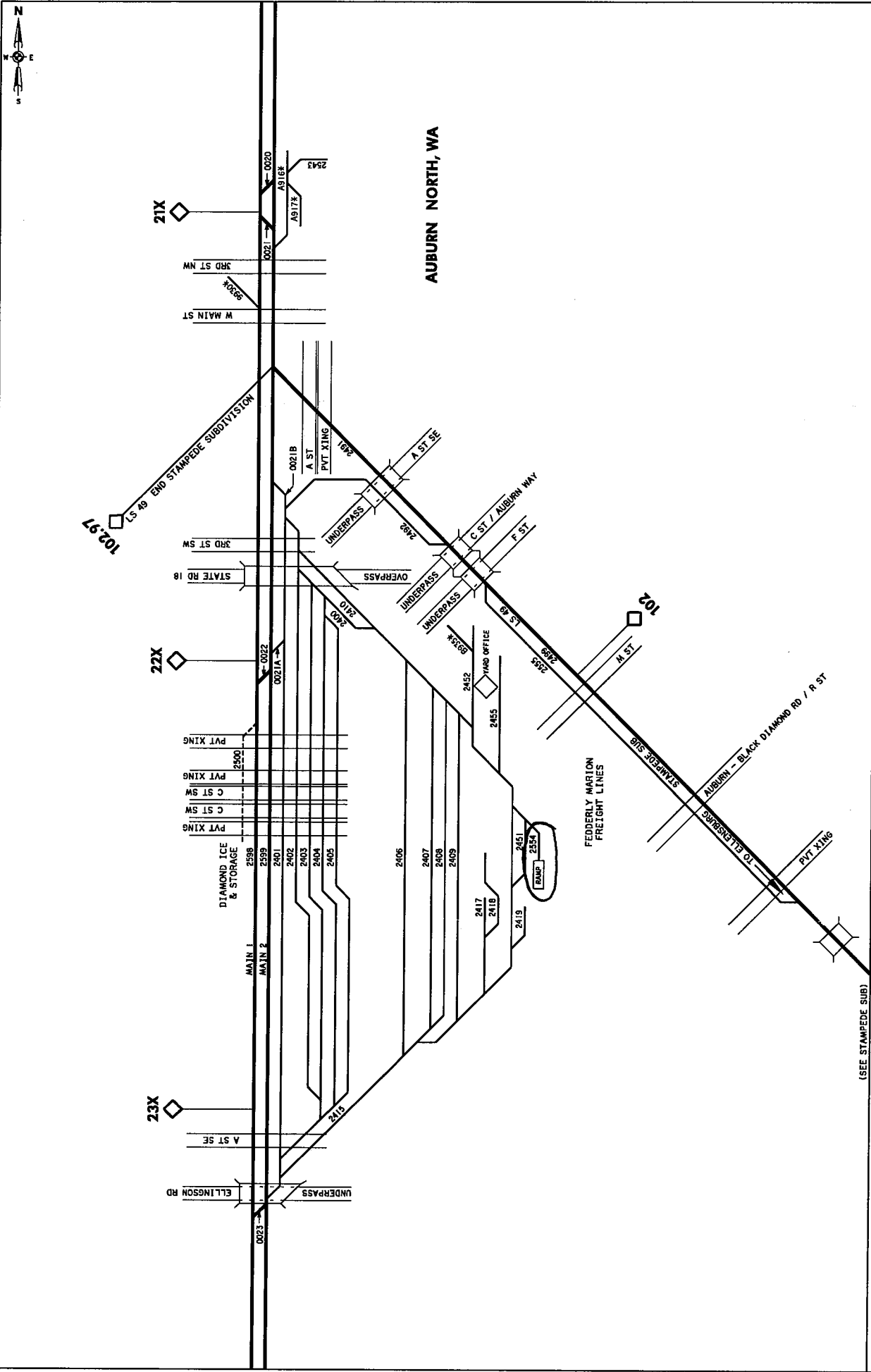
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BNSF
TRACK #2554

TRACK
CENTERLINE



- BNSF OWNED & MAINT
- INDUSTRY OWNED & BNSF MAINT
- LEASE
- TRACKAGE RIGHTS
- FOREIGN TRACK
- JOINT FACILITIES

AUBURN, WA
Seattle Subdivision

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| YARD SEGMENT: 606 | REVISED: 01/03/2006 |
| STATION ABBR: AUBUWA | TRK CHT: SEA033A-T.DGN |
| FSAC: 16014 | TEAM: AUBU24095.DGN |
| ZONE: 24, 25 | |



(SEE STAMPEDE SUB)

* UNKNOWN TRACK NUMBER

Auburn Loading Platform

June 28, 2007

