

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	)	DOCKET NO. TR-111431
	)	
Washington State Dept. of Transportation	)	PETITION FOR INSTALLATION OF
_____	)	R15-3 EXEMPT SIGNS AT A
Petitioner,	)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
	)	CROSSING
vs.	)	
Columbia Basin Railroad	)	
_____	)	
Respondent	)	USDOT CROSSING # 396983B
	)	
.....	)	
_____	)	

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve installation of an R15-3 'Exempt' sign at a highway-rail grade crossing.

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*Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information*

_____ Petitioner Washington State Department of Transportation _____ Street Address 1551 North Wenatchee Avenue _____ City, State and Zip Code Wenatchee, WA 98801 _____ Mailing Address, if different than the street address _____ Contact Person Name Tom Hanson _____ Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address 509-667-3029    hansont@wsdot.wa.gov
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*Section 2 – Respondent's Information*

Respondent Columbia Basin Railroad
Street Address 111 University Parkway, Ste 200
City, State and Zip Code Yakima WA 98901
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Contact Person Name Tim Marshall
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address <a href="mailto:tmarshall@cbr.com">tmarshall@cbr.com</a> 509-453-9166

*Section 3 – Crossing Location*

1. Name of highway/roadway <u>State Route 17</u>
2. Name of railroad <u>Columbia Basin Railroad</u>
3. USDOT Crossing No. <u>396983B</u> UTC Crossing No. <u>34BSE14.3 20.00</u>
4. Located in the ___ 1/4 of the ___ 1/4 of Sec. ___, Twp. ___, Range ___ W.M.
5. GPS location, if known _____
6. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) <u>14.3</u>
7. City <u>Moses Lake</u> County <u>Grant County</u>

*Section 4 – Current Crossing Traffic*

1. Type of public road at the crossing       State       County       City  
 Port       State Park       Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Average daily vehicle traffic over the tracks 17,000      Vehicle speed limit 50 mph

3. Trucks (commercial vehicles) are what percent of average daily traffic 8%

4. Number of school buses over the crossing each day \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name of railroad(s) operating at crossing Columbia Basin Railroad  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Type of railroad at crossing       Common Carrier       Logging       Industrial  
 Passenger       Excursion

7. Type of tracks at crossing       Main Line       Siding or Spur

8. Number of tracks at crossing One track

9. Average daily train traffic, freight Currently none but anticipate 1 train 2 days per week

Authorized freight train speed 10 mph      Operated freight train speed 10 mph

10. Average daily train traffic, passenger N/A

Authorized passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_      Operated passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_

## *Section 5 – Justification*

1. Describe in detail why this crossing should have R15-3 Exempt signs installed.

WSDOT is requesting an R15-3 Exempt sign be installed at the Columbia Basin Railroad crossing with SR17 just east of Stratford Rd in Moses Lake.

Southbound traffic on SR17 has a 50 mph speed limit as they approach the crossing. In addition to the mainline traffic on SR17 an on-ramp from the Stratford Rd. interchange merges shortly before the railroad crossing. Motorists using the on-ramp are checking traffic on the left to negotiate the merge. Just past the merge point is the railroad crossing. They are not expecting traffic to be stopped directly in front of them.

Buses from Grant Transit frequent this crossing. The operations staff from Grant Transit report that they have had several close calls due to merging traffic not anticipating a bus to be stopping just as they are getting up to speed for the merge.

The low volume of train traffic combined with the warning light system that is in place on SR17 should reduce the possibility of bus-train collisions and hopefully support the use of the R15-3 Exempt sign.

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Section 6 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

**Waiver of Hearing**

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install R15-3 Exempt signs at the following crossing.

USDOT Crossing No 396983B \_\_\_\_\_ UTC Crossing No. 34BSE14.3 20.00

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree installation of R15-3 Exempt signs should be made and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at Yakima, Washington, on the 1st day of August, 2011.

Timothy M. Kelly  
Printed name of Respondent

Tim Kelly  
Signature of Respondent's representative

Chief Operating Officer  
Title

Columbia Basin Railroad  
Company Name

509-952-7492 tkelly@cbrr.com  
Phone number and e-mail address

111 S. University Parkway Suite 203

YAKIMA, WA 98901  
Mailing address

