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October 1, 2014

Bob Boston
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Note: Request Revised from previous version sent on September 29, 2014

RE: REQUEST FOR TRACK AND SIDE CLEARANCES VARIANCES - PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY
RAIL SPUR PROJECT AT PORT OF WILMA, N CLARKSTON, WA

Dear Mr. Boston:

The Port of Whitman County owns a rail spur (lead) that traverses our entire port site at the port of Wilma, N Clarkston, WA. This spur (lead) is serviced by the Great Northwest Railroad who accesses off of their main line. We are requesting a variance for two clearance issues as described below.

The port wishes to construct a secondary short spur to service an existing agricultural commodity warehouse. Said warehouse is too close to the port lead to build a spur next to ours with the standard 14' separation. The port is requesting a variance from the UTC to allow the port to build the spur with a 13' separation from our lead. There is also a clearance issue between the new proposed spur and the side of the existing building of approximately 1"

The Great Northwest Railroad finds the proposed variances acceptable for their operations. Please see letter from the Great Northwest Railroad and site map attached.

In summary, there are two clearance issues on the project:

1) WAC 480-60-050 Side Clearances

The general rule states that side clearances must be at least 8 feet 6 inches. The existing building location allows for a clearance of only 8 feet 5 inches between the new spur and the existing building. Therefore, a variance for 1" is required for approval for side clearances. Please reference the site map attached.

2) WAC 480-60-060: Track Clearances

The general rule states that track clearances shall be at least 14'0" minimum distance between the centerlines of parallel standard gauge railroad tracks, which are used or proposed to be used for transporting cars, engines, motors, or like equipment.

The minimum track distance between the centerlines of parallel standard gauge railroad tracks in the proposed design for the Hinrichs Trading Company rail spur is less than required by WAC 480-60-060, with the proposed distance being at 13'. Therefore, a variance for 12" is required for the construction of the new spur.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me by phone at the port or by e-mail at dsnell@portwhitman.com.

Sincerely,



Debbie A. Snell
Property and Development Manager

Attachments: Great Northwest Railroad Letter
Site Map – Hinrichs Spur project