

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	)	DOCKET NO. TR-
	)	
BNSF Railway	)	PETITION FOR THE CLOSURE
_____	)	OF A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
Petitioner,	)	CROSSING
	)	
vs.	)	
City of Sprague	)	
_____	)	
Respondent	)	USDOT CROSSING NO.: 089642M
	)	
.....	)	

Prior to submitting a Petition for the Closure of a Highway-Rail Grade Crossing to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-865 (2) requires:

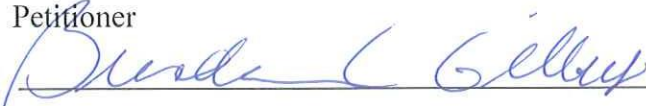
**All actions of the utilities and transportation commission under statutes administered as of December 12, 1975, are exempted, except the following:**

**(2) Authorization of the openings or closing of any highway/railroad grade crossing, or the direction of physical connection of the line of one railroad with that of another;**

Please attach sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the SEPA requirement has been fulfilled. For additional information on SEPA requirements contact the Department of Ecology.

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve the closure of a public at-grade highway-railroad crossing as described in this petition.

***Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information***

Brendan Gilbert
_____
Petitioner

_____
Signature
2454 Occidental Ave South, Suite 2D
_____
Street Address
Seattle, Washington 98134
_____

City, State and Zip Code

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Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Brendan Gilbert

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Contact Person Name

206-625-6578 brendan.gilbert@bnsf.com

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Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

*Section 2 – Respondent’s Information*

Ed Stephens

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Respondent

119 West 2nd Street P.O. Box 264

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Street Address

Sprague, Washington 99032

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City, State and Zip Code

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Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Ed Stephens

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Contact Person Name

509-257-2662

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Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

**Section 3 – Crossing Location**

1. Existing highway/roadway D Street

2. Existing railroad BNSF Railway

3. USDOT Crossing No. 089642M

4. Located in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 23, Twp. 21N, Range 38E W.M.

5. GPS location, if known Lat 47.3009701 Long -117.9785005

7. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 41.22

8. City Sprague County Lincoln

**Section 4 – 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 20  
Vehicle speed limit 25

3. Number of lanes 2

4. Trucks (commercial vehicles) are what percent of average daily traffic 14% (Source: US DOT Inventory)

5. Number of school buses over the crossing each day 0

6. Name of railroad(s) operating at crossing BNSF Railway

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

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

9. Number of tracks at crossing 3

10. Average daily train traffic, freight \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Authorized freight train speed \_\_\_\_\_ 45 \_\_\_\_\_ Operated freight train speed \_\_\_\_\_ 1-45 \_\_\_\_\_

12. Average daily train traffic, passenger \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_ 45 \_\_\_\_\_ Operated passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_ 45 \_\_\_\_\_

*Section 5 – Description of Closure*

1. Describe in detail the reasons for closing the crossing The crossing stated above is a redundant crossing. There are several alternate access points within a quarter mile of the crossing  
petitioned for closure. The crossing closure is supported by the City of Sprague and the BNSF  
Capital Expansion Team which plans to put a second line through the crossing.

2. Describe the area currently served by the crossing, including the approximate number of homes or businesses that might be affected by the closure. The area has mainly local traffic with  
some industrial traffic servicing the local grain elevator. There are approximately 2 businesses  
and no residences within a block of the crossing that are affected by the closure.

3. How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the crossing proposed for closure? Approximately a ¼ of a mile to the east and west for adjacent crossings.

4. Describe the alternate access route, including distance and driving time The alternate routes  
are approximately a ¼ of a mile away in each direction to F. Street and B. Street from the  
proposed closure. This will only add less than a quarter mile to alternate access and 1-2  
minutes to their commute. At the alternate access at F. Street and B. Street the crossings  
have flashing lights and gates.

Section 6 – Illustration of Crossing



*Section 7 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent*

**Waiver of Hearing**

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the closure of the following crossing.

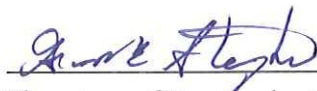
USDOT Crossing No. 089642M

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 the grade crossing should be closed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at Sprague, Washington, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of  
November, 20 2015

Ed Stephens

Printed name of Respondent



Signature of Respondent's Representative

Mayor

Title

City of Sprague

Name of Agency

509-257-2662

Phone number and e-mail address

P.O. Box 264

119 West Second Street  
Sprague, Washington 99032

Mailing address

WAC 197-11-970 Determination of nonsignificance (DNS).

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal

Proponent: *City of Sprague, Washington*

Location of proposal, including street address, if any:

At the intersection of D Street and BNSF railroad tracks nearest cross street is Railroad Ave

Lead agency: *City of Sprague, Washington*

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period for this DNS.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by November, 2015.

Responsible official: Gerald Stephens

Position/title: Mayor Phone: (509) 257-2662

Address: 119 W Second Street (PO Box 264), Sprague, WA 99032

Date: 10-30-2015 Signature Gerald E Stephens

(OPTIONAL)

You may appeal this determination to (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
at (location) \_\_\_\_\_  
no later than (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
by (method) \_\_\_\_\_

You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.  
Contact \_\_\_\_\_ to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

There is no agency appeal.



**City of Sprague Washington  
SEPA DISTRIBUTION LIST**

**Ecology, Dept. of  
Environmental Review**

**(SEPA Register) Must be emailed**

PO Box 47703  
Olympia WA 98504-7703  
(360) 407-6922 (phone)  
(360) 407-6904 (fax)  
[sepa@ecology.wa.gov](mailto:sepa@ecology.wa.gov)

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dept of  
Ms. Gretchen Kaehler**

PO Box 48343  
Olympia WA 98504-8343

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, EZ-1 Form, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**WA State Department of Ecology**

Ms. Terri Costello  
SEPA Coordinator  
4601 N. Monroe Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99205

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**Federal Regional Center (Region X)**  
**Flood Insurance and Mitigation Center**  
130 228<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, FEMA FIRM Map

**Washington State Dept. of Health**

16201 E. Indiana Ave.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**National Resource Conservation Service**

316 W. Boone Ave, Suite 370  
Spokane, WA 99201-2348

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS, Soil Survey Data

**Department of Natural Resources - SEPA Center**

P.O. Box 47015  
Olympia, WA 98504-7015

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Lincoln County Health Dept – Environmental Health**

90 Nicholls St.  
Davenport, WA 99122

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Lincoln County Land Services**

27234 SR 25 North  
Davenport, WA 99122

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife**

**Upper Columbia River Basin – Field Office**

11103 E. Montgomery Drive Suite 2  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Endangered Species Division**

Branch of Federal Activities  
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Olympia, WA 98503

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife**

SEPA Desk  
PO Box 43200  
Olympia, WA 98504-3155

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Colville Confederated Tribes**

Guy Moura, THPO  
PO Box 150  
Nespelem, WA 99155

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS

**Spokane Tribe**

Randy Abrahamson, THPO  
PO Box 100  
Wellpinit, WA 99040

Attachments to Include: Project Site Map, SEPA Checklist & DNS