

SERVICE DATE

MAY 18 1990

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of)	
DOMTAR GYPSUM)	CAUSE NO. TR-900390
for Exemption Under the Clearance)	
Rules and Regulations Governing)	ORDER GRANTING CLEARANCE
Common Carrier Railroads.)	EXEMPTION WITH CONDITIONS
.....))	

By application filed with the Commission on March 22, 1990, pursuant to WAC 480-60-050(3), Domtar Gypsum seeks exemption from clearance requirements for construction of a warehouse loading dock to be served by the Tacoma Municipal Belt Line. The new dock will allow access to both sides of a special center-beam type railroad car loaded with wall board. The petitioner has leased several of these rail cars for shipping wall board from plants in the midwest. The existing facilities allow unloading from only one side of the car, and the expansion will allow unloading from the other side. The anticipated use of this dock is one daily two-car switch movement.

The required side clearance is 8'6" from the track centerline as provided in WAC 480-60-050(3). After construction, the new dock's side clearance impairment will be 2'6".

The side clearance requirement in the Administrative Code is for the safety of personnel who may be working on the side of rolling stock and could be knocked from the equipment if zero clearance were regularly permitted. The track in this case is a dead-end industry spur and the dock will be inside a warehouse. The warehouse is protected by a derail. The zero-clearance dock is a reasonable requirement for access to cargo. The train speed will be slow, and in addition the placement of signs and other warning devices will maximize notice of the hazard and minimize the risk to railroad personnel. Railroad personnel should be forbidden from entering the warehouse building.

Based on the petition and the recommendations of staff, we believe that Domtar Gypsum's application should be granted, subject to restrictions aimed at minimizing the risk to railroad personnel.

O R D E R

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the exemption of WAC 480-60-050(3) sought by the Domtar Gypsum Company is hereby granted, subject to the following minimum conditions:

1. The impaired platform (loading dock) shall be painted safety yellow.

2. A sign shall be placed in advance of the impairment area, stating "Stop", "No Clearance" and "No Trainmen Beyond This Point" in 3" high black letters on a white reflectorized background.

3. The area of the impairment shall be illuminated in hours of darkness. If the facility door is closed and the derail operational, the door and warning sign shall be illuminated during darkness.

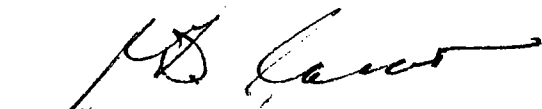
4. Operation of the facility shall be permitted only so long as all these conditions are met.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 15th day of May, 1990.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



SHARON L. NELSON, Chairman



RICHARD D. CASAD, Commissioner



A. J. PARDINI, Commissioner