

SERVICE DATE

MAR 1 8 1997

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the matter of application for	)	
KAISER ALUMINUM AND CHEMICAL	)	CAUSE NO. TR-961319
CORPORATION - TACOMA PLANT	)	ORDER GRANTING CLEARANCE
	)	EXEMPTION WITH CONDITIONS
For exemption under the Clearance	)	
Rules and Regulations Governing	)	
Common Carrier Railroads	)	
. . . . .	)	

A letter was filed on October 22, 1996, by Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation-Tacoma Plant, seeking exemption from overhead clearance requirements for construction of a walkway system. The new walkway will be centered around the loadout facility with 180 feet of walkway on both sides of the track. The structure will have a walkway platform that will be constructed at 19 feet from top of rail. The average clearance between the new walkway and rail cars spotted for loading in the facility will be a minimum of 4 inches from the top of the rail car to the bottom of the platform. Rail employees are no longer allowed to ride on top of rail cars in the performance of their duties. The walkway will have handrails on both sides and access gates to ensure safety of the Kaiser employees even when the rail cars are not in position for loading. The walkways should prevent Kaiser employees from slipping and falling as they load the rail cars.

Tacoma Municipal Beltline Railroad (TMBL) has reviewed the application and is agreeable to the exemption as long as certain conditions are met.

Commission staff has investigated the matter and recommends that the clearance exemption be granted upon the imposition of certain conditions.

The Commission, having reviewed the record and file in this matter and being fully advised in the premises, believes that the application should be granted, but only subject to the conditions stated herein. The Commission therefore enters the following order.

ORDER

WHEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the exemption of WAC 480-60-040(1) sought by Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation for the Port of Tacoma Loadout Facility be, and the same is hereby granted under the following minimum conditions:

1. Tacoma Municipal Belt Line rail employees shall leave rail cars before the cars enter the impaired area.

2. Kaiser Aluminum employees shall move rail cars into and out of the impaired area.

3. A sign not less than 24" x 30" shall be installed stating in red lettering "Restricted Clearance" and in black lettering "Traincrew: Do Not Ride Beyond This Point" be placed in advance of impaired area on both sides of the track.

4. The area of impairment shall be illuminated during hours of darkness by suitable flood or street light units.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1997.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

*Sharon L. Nelson*

SHARON L. NELSON, Chairman

*Richard Hemstad*

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

*William R. Gillis*

WILLIAM R. GILLIS, Commissioner