

TR-021465

BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

November 3, 2003

Mike Rowswell
Safety Manager
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Dear Mr. Rowswell:

As a county commissioner in a rapidly growing community, I frequently encounter both the promise and the pitfalls of technological change. New technology often promises to increase productivity and save money. However, significant operational adjustments are usually necessary to accommodate new technology and prevent the costly predicaments that may be associated with it.

The advent of remote controlled locomotives appears to present just such a scenario for our state. Rules to protect workers, citizens, and visitors are an essential element in minimizing the statewide potential for accidents. Such safeguards are indispensable as we strive to maintain economic vitality through a strong industrial base, to support increasing numbers of people.

Clark County is a focal point for considerable rail activity. As a result, our local citizens are very concerned about the need to ensure an appropriate level of oversight to prevent remote controlled locomotives from posing an unacceptable hazard in our area. I share their concern and urge the Commission to proceed with rulemaking under Docket No. TR-021465.

Sincerely,

Judie Stanton
Judie Stanton, Commissioner

JS/mk

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