

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PUGET SOUND AND PACIFIC,)	DOCKET NO. TR-010450
RAILROAD CO.,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
Petitioner,)	TO UPGRADE WARNING
)	DEVICES AND AUTHORIZING
v.)	EXPENDITURE FROM GRADE
)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
CITY OF ABERDEEN,)	
)	WUTC NO. 6D 55.70
)	
Respondent.)	DOT NO. 808711F
.....)	

BACKGROUND

The Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Co. (Railroad) filed a petition on March 27, 2001, requesting authority to change the warning devices and circuitry at the crossing located at Myrtle Street located in Aberdeen, Washington. The Railroad further requests the Commission authorize an expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay 60% of the project cost. The remainder of the cost will be paid pursuant to agreement between the parties.

DISCUSSION

Commission Staff investigated the petition. The crossing currently has two cross bucks with shoulder mounted flashing lights. The detection circuitry is Direct Current with interlocking type mechanical track relays. The circuitry is outdated, and existing signal equipment has deteriorated beyond repair due to age.

A transload facility was constructed for railroad use near the crossing that will increase traffic over the crossing, including hazardous material trucks. Rail traffic, including switching moves, will also increase. Existing circuitry and devices are inadequate to provide needed protection at the crossing. The Railroad proposes to use surplus equipment available from the Washington State Department of Transportation to upgrade the warning circuitry to motion sensors, and to replace the lights and add gates. This crossing is connected with the crossing at 30th Street, which also must be upgraded for the upgrade to Myrtle Street to be effective.

Grade Crossing Protective Fund money is available for use to pay for the crossing upgrades to the extent the upgrades are completed by June 30, 2001. The total approximate cost is \$17,000. \$10,200 would be paid from the Grade Crossing

Protective Fund. An expenditure of up to \$11,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund should be approved for unforeseen contingencies.

Staff recommends that the petition be granted.

FINDINGS

The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been fully advised in the matter. They believe that granting the petition, subject to the conditions set forth below, is in the public interest, and direct the Secretary to issue the Order.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Railroad to upgrade warning devices at the highway-rail grade crossing located at Myrtle Street and the tracks of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Co., designated as WUTC crossing number 6D 55.70 in Aberdeen, Washington. 60% of the cost of the installation shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. The following conditions apply:

- 1) The upgrades to warning devices must conform to the specifications identified in the petition or their equivalent as approved in advance by Commission Staff.
- 2) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund shall not exceed \$11,000 without further order.
- 3) Payment shall be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor purchased and used on or before June 30, 2001.
- 4) All work must be completed by September 30, 2001.
- 5) Upon completion of the installations authorized herein, petitioner must report completion to the Commission in writing. Acceptance of the installation is subject to a compliance inspection and report by Commission Staff verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with law and regulation and the conditions specified in this order.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this th day of April, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary