

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

THE WASHINGTON STATE)	DOCKET NO. TR-010994
DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
)	TO UPGRADE WARNING
Petitioner,)	DEVICES AT OLD MILITARY
)	ROAD
vs.)	
)	D.O.T. 085531G
THE MEEKER SOUTHERN)	
RAILROAD COMPANY)	W.U.T.C. 42A 29.50
)	
Respondent)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 9, 2001, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of Old Military Road and the tracks of the Meeker Southern Railroad Company, in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 12, Township 19 N, Range 4 E, W.M, in Pierce County.

- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

DISCUSSION

- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, Old Military Road is classified as a rural-collector road, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a speed limit of 35 MPH. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 7,875 vehicles, including 394 trucks. Daily traffic through the crossing in 10 years is expected to reach 11,650 vehicles. The Old Military Road highway-rail grade crossing is located approximately 45 feet west of the Old Military Road/SR-162 roadway intersection.

- 4 Respondent maintains a single main track through the crossing. Daily train traffic averages two freight trains. The maximum timetable speed for trains in the vicinity is 10 MPH.

- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of standard crossbuck and advance warning signs. Petitioner proposes to upgrade warning devices at the crossing through the installation of flashing light signals. The plans submitted with the petition indicate that cantilever-mounted signals will be installed for the east-bound approach and a shoulder-mounted signal will be installed for the west-bound approach.

6 The proposal is related to WSDOT's plan to install a highway traffic signal at the Old
Military Road/SR-162 roadway intersection. The railroad warning signals will be
inter-connected with the highway traffic signals, in order that any vehicle queues that
extend from the traffic signal back over the tracks would be cleared prior to the
arrival of a train. The installations are being proposed in the interest of enhancing
safety for the motoring public.

7 Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted,
subject to specified conditions.

8 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

9 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Washington State Department of
Transportation to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing located at
the intersection of Old Military Road and the Respondent's tracks in Pierce County,
Washington, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The installations must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
- (2) All traffic control devices must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (3) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (4) Upon completion of the installations authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the installations are subject to a compliance inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the changes are in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 12th Day of December, 2001.

THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary