

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Cascade and Columbia River Railroad,	)	
	)	DOCKET NO. TR-020346
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
vs.	)	UPGRADE DEVICES AND
	)	AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE
Chelan County P.U.D.,	)	FROM GRADE CROSSING
	)	PROTECTIVE FUND
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	WUTC NO. 35A 7.80
	)	
.....	)	DOT NO. 065855E

**BACKGROUND**

1 The Cascade and Columbia River Railroad (Railroad) filed a petition on March 21, 2002, requesting authority to change the circuitry at the crossing located at the Rocky Reach Dam Access Road in Chelan County. The crossing has WUTC Number 35A 7.80 and USDOT No. 065855E. The Railroad further requests the Commission to authorize an expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay 60% of the project cost. The Respondent agreed to pay 30% of the costs of the project up to a maximum of \$5000. The Railroad agreed to pay the remainder of the costs of the project.

**DISCUSSION**

2 Commission Staff investigated the petition. The crossing currently has two cross bucks with cantilever mounted eight-inch flashing lights. The detection circuitry is a DC circuit with directional stick circuits. The circuitry is outdated, expensive to maintain and subject to false activations. Installation of an AC/DC circuit with a stick release timer would reduce maintenance costs, and lessen the chance of false activations. The stick release timer protects against activation failures in the event of a directional stick lock-up.

3 Grade Crossing Protective Fund money is available for use to pay for the crossing upgrades. 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.

4 Staff recommends that the petition be granted. Public safety will be improved significantly by the requested upgrades.

### FINDINGS

5 The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been 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

6 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Railroad to upgrade warning devices at the highway-rail grade crossing located at the Rocky Reach Dam Access Road and the tracks of the Cascade and Columbia Railroad Co., designated as WUTC crossing number 35A 7.80 in Chelan County, Washington. 60% of the cost of the installation shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund, 30% of the cost of installation shall be paid by Chelan County, and the remainder of the cost shall be paid by the Railroad. 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) The expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund shall not exceed \$11,000.
- 3) Chelan County shall not pay more than \$5000.
- 4) Payment shall be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor.
- 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 27th day of March, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary