

SERVICE DATE
NOV 18 1997

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

OKANOGAN COUNTY)	
)	
)	DOCKET NO. TR-960588
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
)	TO INSTALL RAILROAD SIGNALS
)	WITH GATES ON
CASCADE AND COLUMBIA RIVER)	EASTSIDE OROVILLE ROAD
RAILROAD)	
)	WUTC 2D136.3
Respondent.)	DOT 96862P
)	
.....)	

By petition filed with the Commission on April 30, 1996, Okanogan County seeks authority for the upgrade of the railroad warning devices on a railroad crossing. The location is the highway-railway crossing at grade at the intersection of Eastside Oroville Road and respondent's track, designated as WUTC Grade Crossing No. 2D136.3 and located in SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 27, Township 40 N., Range 27E., W.M., in Okanogan County, Washington. Funding is pursuant to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.

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

In the vicinity of the crossing, Eastside Oroville Road is a rural local access road running north and south. The legal posted vehicle speed limit is 35 mph for all vehicles.

Respondent maintains one main line track and one spur track at the crossing. Two freight trains use the crossing daily. Legal or operating maximum train speed at the crossing is 10 mph for all trains.

Petitioner proposes to upgrade the warning devices by replacing the existing railroad crossbucks with two AFL traffic control devices, shoulder mount type, with gates and train activation devices. An estimated 251 vehicles including 35 trucks and 2 school buses currently use the crossing daily. Within twenty years, traffic is expected to increase to 500 vehicles daily.

The Commission staff has investigated the petition and has recommended that the petition be approved, subject to specified conditions.

The Commissioners, having reviewed the petition and being fully advised in the matter, believe that granting the petition, subject to the conditions set forth below, is in the public interest.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the petition of Okanogan County for authority to reconstruct and upgrade the railroad signals at the above-described crossing shall be, and the same is hereby, granted; subject to the following minimum conditions:

1. Shoulder-mounted flashing light signals, back-to-back with 12" lenses, operated by train activated devices, shall be installed in the right approach quadrant on each side of the crossing in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Part VIII - "Traffic Control Systems for Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings."
2. Automatic gates shall be installed in the right approach quadrant on each side of the crossing.
3. Installation shall be performed by the respondent. Funding is pursuant to an agreement between the parties.
4. Reflectorized advance warning signs shall be installed in the right approach quadrant on each side of the crossing in accordance with installation practices prescribed in the Washington State Manual for Signing and the U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
5. Standard reflectorized cross-buck signs shall be installed 15 feet from the outside rail in the right approach quadrant on each side of the crossing.
6. All devices shall be erected in such manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
7. The crossing and signals shall be reconstructed in accordance with all specifications accompanying the petition filed in this matter.

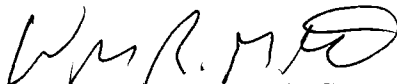
8. Upon completing the installation herein authorized, petitioner shall report completion to the Commission. Acceptance of the installation is subject to a compliance inspection and report by Commission staff verifying that the installation and operation of the signals are in full compliance with law and regulation and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 18th day of November, 1997.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



ANNE LEVINSON, Chair



WILLIAM R. GILLIS, Commissioner