

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	DOCKET NO. TR-990801
	)	
Petition for Limited Exemption from	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
Clearance Rules for The Burlington	)	FOR EXEMPTION FROM
Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. at	)	CLEARANCE RULES
King Street Station in SEattle	)	
	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

1        On June 2, 1999, Sound Transit filed a petition requesting an exemption from the side clearance rules in WAC 480-60-040 for three stairwells and an elevator shaft on a 900-foot long boarding platform for tunnel track number two at the King Street station in Seattle, Washington. Sound Transit operates on tracks owned by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company from the King Street Station to Tacoma.

**DISCUSSION**

2        Staff investigated the petition. The clearance provided at the stairwells and elevator shaft is eight feet rather than the required eight feet six inches. Only passenger trains operate on the tracks with impaired side clearances. As a result, no persons will ride on the outside of rail cars through the station area on the impaired tracks. The impairments are needed to maximize wheel chair access to the platform and for boarding trains. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. approved the design for the platform. Staff recommends the petition be approved.

**FINDINGS**

3        THE COMMISSION FINDS:

- 4        (1) It has jurisdiction pursuant to RCW 81.28.010 and RCW 81.04.460.  
         Granting the requested exemption maximizes wheel chair access to the platform and for boarding trains, and does not endanger train crews or the general public.
- 5        (2) Granting the requested exemption is consistent with the public interest, and the purposes of underlying regulations and statutes.

6        THE COMMISSION DIRECTS the Secretary to issue the order.

**ORDER**

7 THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) The Commission grants the petition of Sound Transit for an exemption from  
side clearance rules set forth in WAC 480-60-040 for the three staircases and  
one elevator shaft located on the boarding platform for tunnel track number  
two at the King Street Railroad Station in Seattle, Washington.
- 9 (2) The clearances shall be as set forth in the engineering drawings on file in this  
docket.
- 10 (3) The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. timetable must include  
notice of the impaired side clearances.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 12th day of December 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary