

UTC STAFF DATA REQUEST NO. 3:

Do the hazards that Mr. Gordon describes in his testimony—on page 3, lines 7 through 15, and page 4, lines 18 through 22—currently exist at the Blackburn Road-South Second Street/Old Highway 99 crossing? If not, why not?

ANSWER TO DATA REQUEST NO. 3:

The hazards described on page 3, lines 7 through 15 and page 4, lines 18 through 22 do not exist to the extent they would exist at the Hickox Road crossing. First, although there is always inherent danger in crossing railroad tracks, stationary trains almost never block the Blackburn Road crossing. Parked train cars stop no closer than 100 to 250 feet of the crossing, which significantly reduces the risk of: (1) blocked or partially-blocked views of trains on the mainline track, (2) drivers trying to get through a partially-blocked crossing, (3) emergency personnel trying to negotiate the line of sight around a parked train, and (4) pedestrians using a crossing near parked trains. Second, the siding track is not frequently used in its current configuration and cannot be used for longer trains until lengthened.