PUGET SOUND & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
P.O. Box 3048 • Elma, WA • 98541 • Phone: 360 482 4994 • Fax: 360 482 3966

December 28, 2010

Mr. Steve Petitt
Director of Community Development
City of Elma
Elma City Hall
P.O. Box E
Elma, WA 98541

Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad
Crossing Closure and Improvement Project
Application for Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Crossing Closures

Dear Mr. Petitt:

The Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad (PSAP) is proposing to close at-grade highway/railroad crossings at N. 2nd St., N. 5th St., N. 10th St., N. 17th St. and Hewitt St. in or near Elma, WA.

Prior to submission of closure applications to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Enclosed is a copy of the SEPA Checklist for your review and processing. Also enclosed, for your reference, are copies of the WUTC petitions for crossing closure.

When approved, the five crossings on the PSAP track will be removed along with the asphalt paving on the respective roadways from the track to the railroad right-of-way line and existing signage. The railroad will install barricades and the appropriate advance closure notification and reroute signage.

The following information is provided to support an application to the WUTC for the aforementioned crossing closures:

- City of Elma SEPA Checklist – 1 copy
- Exhibit Prints – 1 Vicinity Map for each crossing (total 5 exhibits)
- WUTC Petition for the Closure of A Highway-Rail Grade Crossing- 1 copy for each of 5 crossing closures.

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- Listing of affected Homes and Businesses within 500 feet of the project – 1 copy for each of 5 crossings.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Zone Map, Figure 2 – 1 copy

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at (360) 482-4994.

Sincerely,

Steve Hefley
General Manager

Enclosures

City of Elma

Public Works/Community Development
P.O. Box E – 202 W. Main Street
Elma, WA 98541-0487
(360) 482-4482 Fax (360) 482-4960
brownc@techline.com

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS: Answer each question accurately and carefully. If you do not know the answer or if a question does not apply write "do not know" or NA. Complete answer now may avoid unnecessary delays later. If you require additional space for answer or explanations, attach separate sheets.

A. BACKGROUND

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1.	Project Title: Proposed closure of at grade highway/railroad crossings in Elma and Grays Harbor County, WA.	
2.	Applicant: Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad (PSAP)	
3.	Address and Phone: 411 N. 3rd Street Elma, WA Phone: (360) 482-4994 Contact: Steve L. Hefley, General Manager	
4	Date checklist prepared: November 15, 2010	
5.	Agency requiring checklist: City of Elma	
6	Proposed timing or schedule: No phasing is planned. The highway/railroad grade crossing closure work would be scheduled immediately upon approval by the WUTC. This is anticipated to occur in 2nd Quarter, 2011.	
7	Plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity. If yes, explain. There are no plans for future expansion. However, PSAP is also submitting a SEPA Checklist and WUTC Petition to cover one crossing closure in Centralia, WA.	
8	List other environmental information you know about related to this proposal: A field visit and GIS data analysis was conducted for the proposed project. Please refer to Figure 1, Site Map for the specific areas evaluated.	
9.	List other pending applications or approvals: To PSAP's knowledge, there are no other applications pending for governmental approvals that will impact the proposed crossings.	
10.	Give detailed description of proposal including off-site improvements, utility requirements, land and building dimensions etc. (attach site plan): PSAP proposes to close the N 2nd St., N 5th St., N 10th St., N 17th St. and Hewitt Street at grade, highway/railroad crossing to vehicular traffic. The project entails removing the existing crossing surface and grade crossing warning active or passive systems along with the roadway on each side of the railroad track to the railroad right-of-way line. Barricades are to be installed at the railroad right-of-way line to prevent ingress onto the railroad's property. Signage is to be installed in advance of the crossing indicating the crossing closure. The proposed work is planned to be performed by PSAP personnel. The planned work should take approximately two days per crossing to remove the existing crossing, install signage, remove the roadway pavement to the railroad right-of-way line and install barricades. The work will be done with a small crew of approximately 4 men using a backhoe and air compressor and a boom truck. The work will be done during day-light, working hours.	

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11. Location of proposal including section, township, range and parcel number. The project is located at the at-grade highway/railroad crossings N 2nd St., N 5th St., N 10th St., N 17th St. and Hewitt Street and the PSAP railroad line, in or near Elma, WA. The crossing is identified by DOT's at Latitude and Longitude in the table below as taken from the WUTC Crossing Inventory. Figure 1, Site Map shows the location of the crossings.	

City	County	State	Crossing Name	DOT #	Latitude	Longitude
Elma	Grays Harbor	WA	N 2nd St.	#096525J	47.00794	-123.40333
Elma	Grays Harbor	WA	N 5th St.	#096635U	47.0074	-123.40747
Elma	Grays Harbor	WA	N 11th St.	#096639W	47.00728	-123.41395
Elma	Grays Harbor	WA	N 17th St.	#096641X	47.00717	-123.42158
	Grays Harbor	WA	Hewitt St.	#096649C	47.00336	-123.48279

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH	
a. General description of the site (circle one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other	
b. What is the steepest slope on site (approximate percent slope)? Zero to 5%	
c. What general types of soils are found on the site (e.g., clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. According to US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, the soils on the site consist of Carstairs very gravelly loam, Satsop silt loam and Montesa Silt Loam.	
d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. In general, the onsite soils appear stable and non-erosive. There is no history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity of the project sites.	
e. Describe purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. Not applicable; no fill or grading will be required for closure of the crossings.	
f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. Approximately 1,000 square feet of asphalt will be removed at each crossing. However, the onsite soil types are stable and non-erosive. Construction equipment will be limited to developed areas of the sites and will not pose an erosion risk. Therefore, no erosion is expected to occur.	
g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (e.g., asphalt or buildings)? No new impervious surfaces will be added as a result of the project. Asphalt will be removed, reducing the current amount of impervious surface by approximately 1,000 square feet at each crossing.	
h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: None, not applicable	
2. AIR	
a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. There would be no increase in air emissions from automobiles or trains due to this project.	
b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. The Grays Harbor County area is currently in attainment for state and federal air quality standards. Therefore, no off-site sources of emissions or odor will affect the proposed project.	
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: Not Applicable	
3. WATER	
a. Surface:	
1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. There are no surface water bodies or wetlands within 500 feet of the project sites. The closest surface water body is a Dry Bed Creek, located approximately 750 feet west from the N 17th Street Crossing. According to the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map, a palustrine emergent wetland is also located approximately 530 feet northeast of this crossing. The proposed project does not include any surface water discharges to the Dry Creek bed or the palustrine emergent wetland, and will have no impact on these water bodies.	

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. The proposed project site is located more than 200 feet from the closest waters mentioned above, and will not impact this area.	
3. Estimate amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. No fill or dredged materials will be placed or removed from surface water or wetland areas due to the proposed road crossing closures.	
4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No surface water withdrawals or diversions are proposed.	
5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? If so, note location on the site plan. No. Figure 2 shows the project site and flood plain map for the general area.	
6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. No discharge of waste material to surface water is planned. To prevent the inadvertent discharge of spilled materials to surface waters a Construction Stormwater pollution Prevention Plan will be prepared and implemented.	
b. Ground:	
1. Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No ground water withdrawals or discharges are proposed.	
2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (e.g., domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals_____; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. There will be no waste material discharged due to this project.	
c. Water Runoff (including storm water):	
1. Describe the source of runoff, (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. Runoff is typically generated from two sources – operations and precipitation. Stormwater runoff from precipitation is the primary source of water runoff at the site. Stormwater runoff is currently generated from precipitation on impervious surfaces on the project site. This runoff will not be altered by the project; therefore no additional stormwater measures to collect and dispose of stormwater are necessary.	
2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. As discussed in Item B.3.a., there are no bodies of surface water on the site or directly adjacent to the site. Therefore, there is no potential for waste material entering surface water.	
3. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: No additional impacts are expected for surface, ground, and runoff water; therefore, no additional measures are proposed.	

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4. PLANTS	
a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site: No vegetation is found on the site. The sites all currently have asphalt covering them. However, the following types of vegetation were found within 200 feet of the site __X_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other _____ __X_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other _____ __X_ shrubs __X_ grass ___ pasture ___ crop or grain ___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other _____ ___ water plants: water lily, eel grass, milfoil, other _____ ___ other types of vegetation	
b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? The sites are currently asphalt, with no vegetation. Therefore no vegetation will be removed or altered.	
c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. According to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), there are no rare plant species identified in the project vicinity.	
d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: Not applicable.	
5. ANIMALS	
a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site: birds: hawk, heron, eagle, (songbirds) other _____ mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other _____ fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other	
b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) maintains a species list for all the counties in Washington. Currently, USFWS lists 5 endangered and threatened terrestrial species for Grays Harbor County, which include marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, Oregon silverspot butterfly, short-tailed albatross, and Western snowy plover. These species are unlikely to be present in the project vicinity.	
c. Is site part of a migration route? If so, explain. All the species identified above may fly over the project sites; however the proposed project area is unlikely a part of the migration routes for the listed species.	
d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: No measures are proposed.	
6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES	
a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. There will be no energy usage required in this project.	
b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy on adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. The proposal would not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.	
c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: None.	
7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. No.	
1. Describe special emergency services that might be required. No special emergency services will be required; however, consideration for re-routing emergency response vehicles is included in the project plan.	
2. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any. None.	
b. Noise	
1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (e.g., traffic, equipment operation, other)? Existing noise is from freight trains and automotives passing the crossing. Following the project, automotive traffic noise will be eliminated at the project site. However, it is anticipated that existing noise will be moved to the alternate traffic routes. No net gain or loss of noise is anticipated for the area.	
2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (e.g., traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. It is anticipated that two days work will be required at the crossing which will produce short-term noise from a railroad maintenance truck, backhoe and air compressor. The work will take place during normal working hours; between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: No impacts are anticipated, therefore no reduction measures are proposed.	
8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE	
a. What is the current use of site and adjacent properties? Transportation corridor for railroad and highway.	
b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. No.	
c. Describe any structures on site. There are no structures on the site.	
d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? structures will be demolished. The project consists of removal of the existing crossing material and the existing street surface to the railroad right-of-way line. Barricades are to be installed with signage indicating the crossing closure approach.	
e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? There is not zoning within the limits of the crossing closure project; however, the surrounding areas are zoned "Community Business", "General Residential" or "Rural Residential".	
f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? The PSAP Railroad is a designated "Railroad transportation corridor". N 2nd St. and N 11th St. are designated as City Arterial streets. 5th St. and 17th St. in Elma are designated as City Streets. Hewitt St. is a Grays Harbor County Road.	
g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Not applicable.	
h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? No.	
i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? None.	
j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None.	
k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: Not applicable.	
l. Proposed measures to ensure proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: Traffic re-route plans for the closures are to be implemented.	

9. HOUSING	
a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. Not applicable.	
b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. None.	
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: Not applicable.	

10. AESTHETICS	
a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? Not applicable.	
b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? The proposed project will have minimal impact on views in the area for the following reasons: The site is relatively flat. The tallest structure on the site will be the barricade which typically only rises to approximately 6 feet in height.	
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetics impacts, if any: None.	
11. LIGHT AND GLARE	
a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? None.	
b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? No.	
c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal. None.	
d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: None.	
12. RECREATION	
a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Gladys Smith and Lloyd Murrey parks are located immediately north of the railroad track.	
b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. No recreational uses would be displaced or impacted by the proposed project.	
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: None.	
13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION	
a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. According to the Washington Information System for Architechtural and Archealogical Records Data (WISAARD), there are no national, state, or local preservation registers known on or next to the site.	
b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. None.	
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: None.	
14. TRANSPORTATION	
a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. The project involves closing at-grade rail crossings to vehicular traffic on the following streets: N 2nd St., N 5th St., N 11th St., N 17th St. and Hewitt Street. Local traffic will require alternate routes to cross the railroad.	
b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to nearest transit stop? No. The nearest transit stop is located at the intersection of 3rd Street and Young Street, approximately 1,000 feet south from the project area.	
c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? Not applicable.	
d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). No new roads or improvements are anticipated.	
e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. A Freight railroad is part of the project (in the immediate vicinity of the project).	

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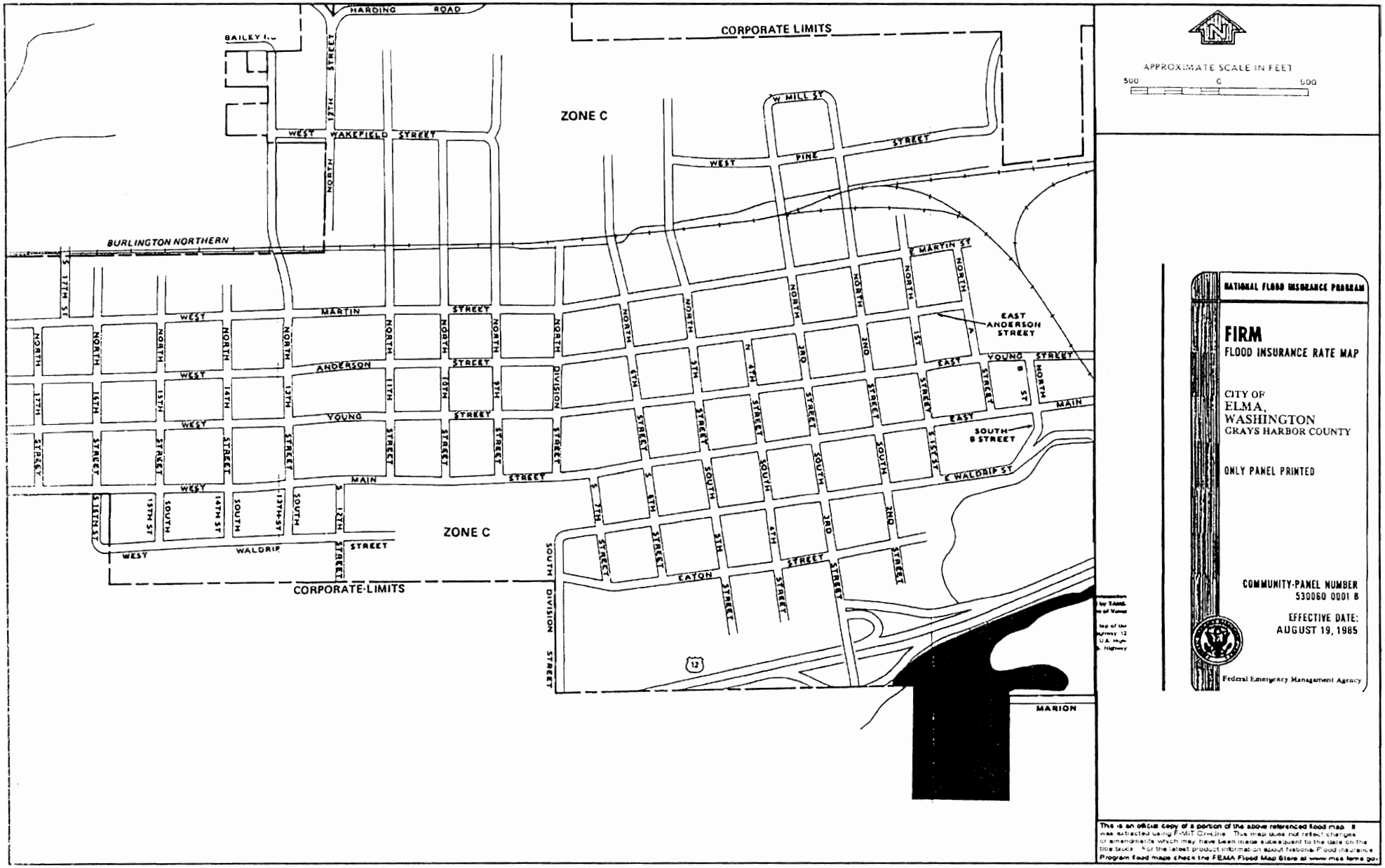
f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. No changes in existing vehicular trips per day would be generated. Existing vehicular trips will be re-routed to other at grade railroad crossings.	
g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: Advanced notification of crossing closure signs will be installed and notification will be made to emergency services.	
15. PUBLIC SERVICES	
a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (e.g., fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. No additional public services will be required as a result of project completion.	
b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. Notification of emergency response agencies and the public will take place approximately 2 months in advance of the crossing closure. Installation of project completion signage will take place during the project construction period.	
16. UTILITIES	
a. Circle utilities available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. Electricity, water, refuse service, telephone and sanitary sewer utilities are available in the vicinity of the project. However, the project will not impact utilities or require use of utilities.	
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. None.	

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Steven Hafley

Date Submitted: January 13, 2011


HARDING ROAD
CORPORATE LIMITS
ZONE C
WEST WAKEFIELD STREET
W MILL ST
WEST PINE STREET
BURLINGTON NORTHERN
E MARVIN ST
MARTIN STREET
EAST ANDERSON STREET
ANDERSON STREET
YOUNG STREET
MAIN STREET
SOUTH B STREET
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NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
CITY OF
ELMA,
WASHINGTON
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
ONLY PANEL PRINTED
COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER
530060 0001 B
EFFECTIVE DATE:
AUGUST 19, 1985
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIGURE 2