



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

January 26, 2011

Jan Stemkoski, Public Works Director
City of Centralia
1100 North Tower Street
Centralia, WA 98531

Tim Elsea, Public Works Director
Lewis County
2025 Northeast Kresky Avenue
Chehalis, WA 98532

Kyle Heaton, Executive Director
Port of Centralia
3508 Galvin Road
Centralia, WA 98531

Sent via E-mail and First Class Mail

**RE: TR-110158 - Petition on Behalf of Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad to Close the Foron Road Grade Crossing in Lewis County, Washington
USDOT #092559P**

Dear Mr. Stemkoski, Mr. Elsea and Mr. Heaton:

On January 19, 2011, Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad (PSAP) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to close the Foron Road railroad grade crossing. The Commission assigned Docket No. TR-110158 to this petition.

The petition filed by PSAP identifies the City of Centralia as the road authority at this railroad crossing. However, after discussions with Mr. Stemkoski, it appears that there is a discrepancy over who the road authority is at this railroad crossing. As a result of this information and potential impacts, both Lewis County and the Port of Centralia are receiving notice of the filing of the petition.

Please review the enclosed petition and respond by February 15, 2011. Your response options include:

- Support the petition – Complete the Respondent's Waiver of Hearing form, which serves as your consent for the Commission to issue an order without further notice or hearing.



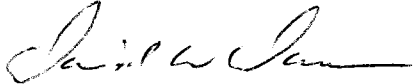
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Tim Elsea
Kyle Heaton
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- Do not support the petition – Reply with your position and include whether you feel a hearing is necessary to resolve the issues or suggest other courses of action, such as further discussion prior to going to hearing.

Each organization is required to respond in writing within 20 days of the date of this letter. If you believe that your organization is not the road authority at the Foron Road railroad crossing, please state this and why.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hunter at (360) 664-1257 or khunter@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



David Danner
Executive Director and Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Steve Hefley, Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad (without enclosure)

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad

Petitioner,

vs.

City of Centralia

Respondent

DOCKET NO. TR- **110158**

PETITION FOR THE CLOSURE
 OF A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
 CROSSING

USDOT CROSSING NO.: **092559P**
Foron Road

Prior to submitting a Petition for the Closure of a Highway-Rail Grade Crossing to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-865 (2) requires:

All actions of the utilities and transportation commission under statutes administered as of December 12, 1975, are exempted, except the following:

(2) Authorization of the openings or closing of any highway/railroad grade crossing, or the direction of physical connection of the line of one railroad with that of another;

Please attach sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the SEPA requirement has been fulfilled. For additional information on SEPA requirements contact the Department of Ecology.

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve the closure of a public at-grade highway-railroad crossing as described in this petition.

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad	2011 JAN 19 PM 2:11 RECEIVED SEPA DIVISION WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Petitioner	
<i>Steven Hefley, General Manager</i>	
Signature	
411 N. 3rd Street	
Street Address	
Elma, WA 98541	

City, State and Zip Code

Same

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Steve L. Hefley

Contact Person Name

(360) 482-4994; steve.hefley@railamerica.com

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

City of Centralia

Respondent

1100 N. Tower St

Street Address

Centralia, WA 98531

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Jan Stemkoski

Contact Person Name

(360) 330-7512; jstemkoski@cityofCentralia.com

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway Foron Road

2. Existing railroad Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad

3. USDOT Crossing No. 092559P

4. Located in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 30, Twp. 15, Range 2W W.M.

5. GPS location, if known Lat. = 46.45075; Long. = -122.59581

7. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 3.5

8. City: Centralia County: Lewis

Section 4 – Crossing Traffic

1. Type of public road at the crossing State County City
 Port State Park Other _____

2. Average daily vehicle traffic over the tracks 464 Vehicle speed limit **25 MPH**

3. Trucks (commercial vehicles) are what percent of average daily traffic 25.5%

4. Number of school buses over the crossing each day 0

5. Name of railroad(s) operating at crossing **Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad**

6. Type of railroad at crossing Common Carrier Logging Industrial
 Passenger Excursion

7. Type of tracks at crossing Main Line Siding or Spur

8. Number of tracks at crossing 2 Tracks

9. Average daily train traffic, freight **6 trains per 24 hour period**

Authorized freight train speed 40 Operated freight train speed 40

10. Average daily train traffic, passenger N/A

Authorized passenger train speed N/A Operated passenger train speed N/A

Section 5 – Description of Closure

1. Describe in detail the reasons for closing the crossing **Improving public safety by reducing the potential for train/vehicle crossing accidents, reducing railroad maintenance cost and improving railroad operations.**

2. Describe the area currently served by the crossing, including the approximate number of homes or businesses that might be affected by the closure. **The area south of the Foron Rd. PSAP crossing is low density residential and the area north of the intersection of the railroad and Foron Rd. is heavy industrial. Foron Rd. connects between Harrison Ave. to the south, passes through the low density residential area, crosses the PSAP main line and switching yard track and connects northerly into the Port of Centralia heavy industrial area.**

3. How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the crossing proposed for closure? **The alternate access for the heavy industrial traffic is approximately 2,000 feet from the existing crossing to Kuper Rd. which ties to Harrison Ave. The alternate access for the low density residential area is south to Harrison Ave., longest drive is approximately ¾ mile.**

4. Describe the alternate access route, including distance and driving time **The longest distance heavy industrial south bound traffic would have to travel to exit the industrial park is approximately 2,000 feet north on Foron Rd. and 2,000 feet west on Kuper Rd. (a crossing with automatic warning devices) to access Harrison Ave. North bound residents would have to travel south on Foron Rd. approximately ¾ mile to Harrison Ave. before being able to travel north on Harrison Ave.**

The worst-case scenario additional driving distance is approximately 1.5 miles, or about 2-4 minutes additional time.

Section 6 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the location of the highway and railroad in the vicinity of the crossing. Include the parcels of private property located on both sides of the highway for a distance of 500' from the crossing and the name and mailing address of each property owner.

See Exhibit Foron Rd., - Centralia, WA and 09255P Parcels Table

Section 7 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the closure of the following crossing.

USDOT Crossing No. 092559P

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree the grade crossing should be closed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at _____, Washington, on the _____ day of
_____, 20 ____.

Printed name of Respondent

Signature of Respondent's Representative

Title

Phone number and e-mail address

Mailing address

