

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN	)	DOCKET NO. TR-040150
SANTA FE RAILWAY	)	
COMPANY,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE TRAIN DETECTION
v.	)	CIRCUITRY AT 102 <sup>nd</sup> AVENUE NW
	)	
SNOHOMISH COUNTY	)	
	)	USDOT: 084694M
Respondent.	)	WUTC: 2BSF55.7 25.00
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On February 3, 2004, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade train detection circuitry at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW and the petitioner’s tracks, in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of section 24, township 32 N., range 3 E., W.M., in Snohomish County, Washington.
- 2     Respondent has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3     Railroad warning devices at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW grade crossing consist of shoulder-mounted flashing light signals with eight-inch diameter signal heads. Train detection circuitry at the crossing includes obsolete DC-type equipment. The petitioner proposes to replace the existing circuitry with AC/DC-type circuitry with a stick release timer (a device which protects the system against signal activation failures). In addition, the petitioner plans to upgrade the existing eight-inch diameter signal heads with twelve-inch diameter signal heads. The installations will improve efficiency and reliability of the warning system.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington. *Chapter 81.53 RCW.*
- 5 (2) The 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW grade crossing, identified as USDOT 084694M, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 6 (3) WAC 480-62-150 (2)(d) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to train detection circuitry at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 7 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 8 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 25, 2004.
- 9 (7) After examination of the petition filed by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company on February 3, 2004, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 The petition of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company to upgrade train detection circuitry at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW and the petitioner's tracks, in Snohomish County, Washington, is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (2) Upon completion of the upgrade authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of WAC 480-62-150 and RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary