

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

THE PUGET SOUND AND)	DOCKET NO. TR-032027
PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY,)	DEVICES AT O'DONNELL AVENUE
)	
Respondent.)	USDOT: 096537D
.....)	WUTC: 40C 4.00
)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 9, 2003, the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of O'Donnell Avenue and tracks of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company, in Section 16, Township 18 N., Range 5 W., W.M., in Grays Harbor County, Washington. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, O'Donnell Avenue is classified as a local access road, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. The petitioner's tracks cross O'Donnell Avenue at an acute angle, and sight distance is obscured by vegetation, fencing along the railroad right-of-way, and a steep ascending grade on the northbound approach to the crossing. O'Donnell Avenue primarily serves a lumber mill facility immediately north of

the tracks. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 220 vehicles, including 25 trucks.

- 4 Petitioner maintains one mainline track and one siding track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes two freight trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 25 mph.
- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of passive devices, including stop signs. Petitioner seeks to install shoulder-mounted flashing light signals with gates, including extra flashing light signals facing northeast for the benefit of traffic in the vicinity of the lumber mill. The upgrades are proposed in the interest of improving safety for roadway users.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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.*
- 7 (2) The O'Donnell Avenue grade crossing, identified as USDOT 096537D, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to a change in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2004.

- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company on December 9, 2003, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 The petition of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of O'Donnell Avenue and the petitioner's tracks, in Grays Harbor County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The upgrades must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
 - (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
 - (4) Grays Harbor County must install and maintain a W10-5 ("Hump Crossing") advance warning sign on the southbound, ascending approach to the crossing to warn drivers of low clearance vehicles of the crossings high profile.
 - (5) Upon completion of the upgrades 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 RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 14th day of January, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary