

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

THE PUGET SOUND AND)	DOCKET NO. TR-032032
PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,)	
)	ORDER NO. 01
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
v.)	UPGRADE TRAIN DETECTION
)	CIRCUITRY AT MYRTLE STREET
THE CITY OF ABERDEEN,)	
)	USDOT: 808711F
Respondent.)	WUTC: 40F 55.70
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 9, 2003, the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad 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 Myrtle Street and tracks of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company, in Section 7, Township 17 N., Range 9 W., W.M., in Aberdeen, 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, Myrtle Street is classified as a minor arterial road, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 3,000 vehicles, including 300 trucks.

- 4 Petitioner maintains one mainline track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes six freight trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 10 mph.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of shoulder-mounted flashing light
signals with gates and AC/DC-type train detection circuitry. Petitioner seeks to
upgrade the detection circuitry by installing motion sensor-type circuitry. 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 Myrtle Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 808711F, 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.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12 The petition of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company to upgrade train detection circuitry at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Myrtle Street and the petitioner's tracks, in Aberdeen, Washington, is granted, 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 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