

John M. (Mike) Cowles Manager Public Projects States of WA., ID, MT, and British Columbia **BNSF Railway Company**

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May 17, 2005

WUTC 1300 Evergreen Park Dr. So. P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA. 98504-7250 Attn: Ahmer Nizam DISTRIBUTION CENTER
2005 MAY 19 AM 8:54
STATE OF WASH.

Re: Kennewick, WA. - Petition to close the Columbia Center Boulevard grade crossing (DOT 104-567U)

Dear Mr. Nizam:

Attached is the original and one copy of the petition for the closure of the Columbia Center Boulevard grade crossing where it crosses BNSF mainline tracks at RR milepost 8.30, line segment 48 in Kennewick, WA.

Please process the petition and submit the order to close the Columbia Center Boulevard crossing and forward a copy to BNSF and to the city of Kennewick for our further handling.

Sincerely,

J. M. (Mike) Cowles Mgr. Public Projects

JMC

Cc: Steve Plummer
Project Engineer
210 West 6th Street
P.O. Box 6108

Kennewick, WA. 99336-0108

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

) DOCKET NO. TR-	
THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON)) PETITION FOR THE ABANDONMENT) AND CLOSURE OF A HIGHWAY-RAIL	
Petitioner,) GRADE CROSSING)	
vs.)	
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY))) D.O.T. 104-567U	
Respondent))) W.U.T.C. 1C8.30	
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Application is hereby made for an order from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission consenting to the abandonment and closure to public use of a grade crossing located at the point described in the following interrogatories and answers which are hereby referred to and made a part of this petition.

Stephen R. Plummer, Pro	ect Engineer
Petitioner	
PO Box 6108,	210 West 6th Avenue
P.O. Box	Street
Kennewick, Washington	99336
City	ZIP Code

(See Instructions on last page)

INTERROGATORIES

1.

State name of highway and railway at crossing intersection:

	Existing highway Columbia Center Boulevard
	Existing railway BNSF Railway Company - Yakima Valley Subdivision
	State Crossing No. <u>USDOT No. 104-567U WUTC No. 1C8.30</u>
	Located in the1/4 of the <u>NE 1/4 of Sec. 6</u> , Twp. <u>8N</u> , Range <u>29E</u> W.M.
	Railway mile post (nearest tenth) 8.30
	City of Kennewick
	Benton County, Washington
	2.
	•
(a)	Type of highway at crossing (Indicated with X):
	() State, () County, (X) City Street
	Average Daily Traffic over the tracks: 28,000
(b)	Type of railroad at crossing (Indicate with X):
	(X) Common Carrier, (_) Logging, (_) Industrial
	(X) Main Line, (_) Branch Line, (_) Spur
	Average Daily Train Traffic: 4 to 10
	3.

State fully the reasons for seeking authority to close and abandon the public use of the grade crossing described:

This crossing has been replaced with a grade separated crossing.

4.

Describe the area or site that is served by the crossing, including the approximate number of homes or businesses that might be affected by the closure.

The grade separated crossing will improve conditions for nearby residents by eliminating horn noise. Public safety will be increased by elimination of the existing at-grade crossing. No businesses will lose access to roadways or rail

5.

How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the crossing proposed for closure?

N/A - this crossing has been replaced by a grade separated crossing.

6.

Attach a sketch showing the layout of the highway and railway in the vicinity of the crossing as well as the parcels of private property located on both sides of the highway for a distance of 500' from the crossing, including the name and mailing address of each property owner.

Attached

WAIVER OF HEARING BY RESPONDENT

Having investigated the conditions existing at and in the vicinity of the grade crossing described herein and being satisfied that such conditions are substantially as described in the interrogatories and answers thereto, and consent that the grade crossing should be closed and abandoned to public use. Hearing in this proceeding is hereby waived.

INSTRUCTIONS

The original and one copy of the petition with interrogatories completely answered must be filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission unless the waiver of hearing form is filled out by the respondent. If waiver of hearing is filled out by the respondent, only the original copy of the petition is required to be filed with the Commission.

If waiver of hearing is not executed on the petition filed, the copy will be served upon the respondent for answer within 20 days. Upon receipt of respondent's answer, the application will be investigated.

Under the terms of RCW 81.53.060 as amended by the session laws of 1959, the Commission may order the closure of a grade crossing without hearing where:

- (1) notice of the filing of the petition is posted at, or as near practical to, the crossing.
- (2) notice of the filing of the petition is published once in some newspaper of general circulation in the community or area where such crossing is situated, which publication shall appear within the same week that the notice referred to in (1) above is posted; and
 - (3) no objections are received by the Commission within twenty days from the date of the publication of the notice.

If an objection is received, the matter will be set for hearing.

Petitions submitted by counties must be signed by at least two members of the Board of County Commissioners.







