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Dave Danner
Executive Director
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Subject: Docket TR-081463: WSDOT Request for Railroad Close Clearance Waiver

The following summary is being provided in response to Commission Staff's request for clarification regarding the close clearance duration sought by WSDOT in Docket TR-081463.

Summary

The Westbound Nalley Valley Viaduct Project is the first of three projects that will reconstruct the I-5/SR-16 interchange. In this first phase, a portion of the structure will be constructed over and within Sound Transit's railroad right-of-way. For work near the tracks, Sound Transit has directed WSDOT to coordinate with Tacoma Rail to arrange for any necessary railroad protective services.

As part of this coordination, WSDOT and Tacoma Rail have entered into a formal agreement that establishes a series track windows from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Although work near the tracks would not span the entire year, providing this flexibility serves both the contractor's schedule and project cost. Since this portion of the project is directly related to the waiver sought in this matter, it would be appropriate to apply December 31, 2009 as the expiration date of the waiver.

WSDOT anticipates that the actual close clearance would be in place for less than six months; however, it is not known exactly when (within 2009) the contractor will construct that specific project element. Therefore, we request that the Order in TR-081463 be amended to allow the waiver to be in effect until December 31, 2009.

Please contact me at any time with questions or requests for more information.

Sincerely,

Ahmer Nizam
Manager – Utilities/Railroad/Agreements

cc: Dean Moon, WSDOT
Dave Pratt, WUTC
Bob Boston, WUTC