

PETITION TO REMOVE BOX CARS AND TANKERS
AT COLUMBIA CENTER ESTATES

The following residents of Columbia Center Estates are petitioning the REMOVAL of the box cars and tankers that has been placed next to our property for the last three weeks. Also that the SPUR is NEVER used again for the storage of these cars and tankers.

This SPUR has NOT been used for over 6 1/2 years and now it is used EVERY NIGHT. We have never complained about the track being used for a train to go through, but when cars and tankers are placed on the SPUR the NOISE IS DEAFENING, as well as a definite deciding factor for homes to be bought and/or sold in this area. In other words OUR REAL ESTATE PROPERTY IS GREATLY REDUCED.

Submitted by John R. Crockett

John R. Crockett 10/28/98

Marie L. Crockett

Marie L. Crockett

10/28/98

Ken

I recommend that one of the following methods be applied to insure the spur line is not used:

1. Install rail stops to both ends of spur line.
2. Remove spur line switching units.
3. Remove spur line

If additional spur lines are needed in the future expansion of the 1100 area and Horn Rapids area they should be installed in those areas.

EXHIBIT

B

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JK

John R. Crockett

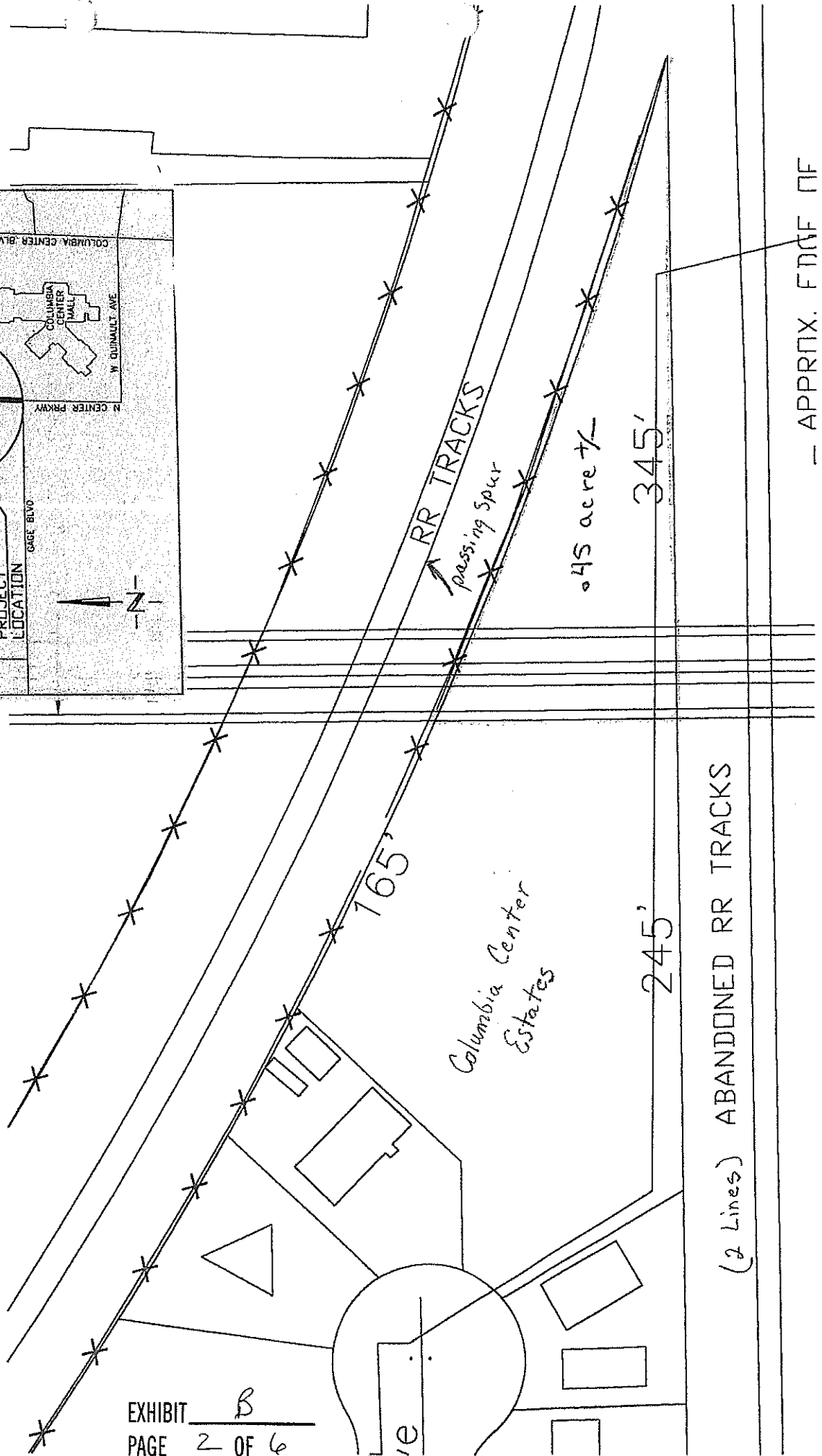
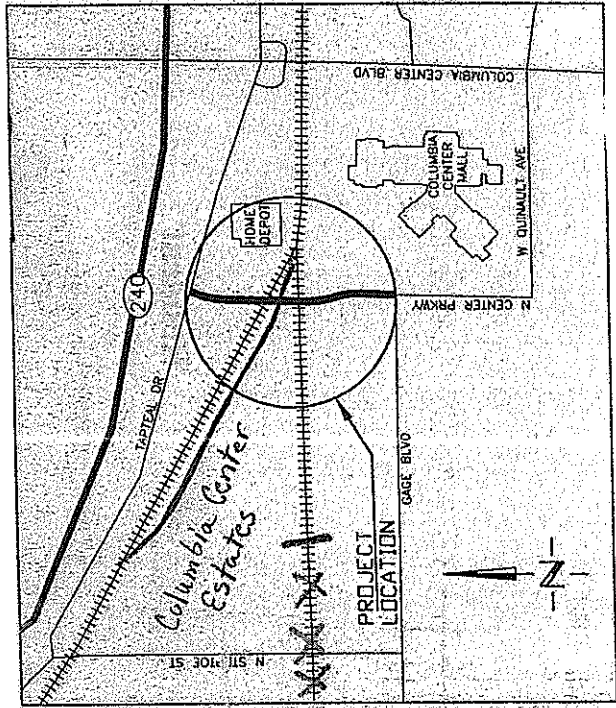


EXHIBIT B
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Steve Plummer

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

From: Dixie Ann Johnson[SMTP:JessieDixup@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2001 3:24 PM
To: SteveP@ci.kennewick.wa.us
Subject: Re: Center Parkway Ex



Mr. Plummer,

We received a flyer on our doorstep last week - regarding plans to extend Center Parkway to Tapteal Blvd. We are very interested in being informed about meetings for public input and also being kept current on information regarding the plans. Many people who live in both the Ridge and Columbia Center Estates are wondering about the railroad. We are hoping that the city is not planning on pushing the railroad into the area that fronts a lot of property in these developments. Property that was purchased with views of the Columbia and Yakima rivers.

Also we are concerned about seeing that this area is not turned into a train switching yard. That would seriously devalue the price of our homes for resale.

Thank you for listening and please see that we get put on any list to be notified as to meetings regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Floyd H. and Dixie Ann Johnson

8306 W. Yellowstone Ave.

Kennewick, Wa 99336 (509) 783-0283

Doc Hastings U.S. Representative
1323 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC. 20515

George Nethercutt US Representative
223 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

Patty Murray Senator
173 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

Maria Cantwell Senator
717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

Washington State: Legislators

Pat Hale Senator
Capital Bldg.
Olympia, Wa. 98207

Shirley Hankins Representative
Capital Bldg.
Olympia, Wa. 98207

Jerome Delvin Representative
Capital Bldg.
Olympia, Wa. 98207

TRI-CITIES

Mayor and Council - City of Richland
505 Swift Blvd.
Richland, Wa. 99352

Mayor and Council - City of Kennewick
210 W. 6th Ave.
Kennewick, Wa. 99336

Port of Benton Director
3100 George Washington Way
Richland, Wa. 99352

*bst
I cc: to Council
5/19/02
88*

*CENTER PARKWAY
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT*



March 4, 2002

PROBLEM: RAILROAD SPUR [three spurs]. USE: A switching and holding area for boxcars including many diesel powered refrigerated cars that are quite noisy that run along the back yards of the homes on W. Canyon Ave. and Yellowstone Ave. within the Columbia Center Estates. [See Map]

In 1991 we had our home placed in the Columbia Center Estates, and we knew at the time that trains used the line that passes our area, but we were unaware that this area would eventually become a "boxcar Sanctuary, and Rail Car Switching Yard".

In January or February of 1992 four or five Refrigerated boxcars were parked on the Switching Spur in front of W. Canyon Ave. The noise was deafening. We asked and received help from Robert Young who owned the properties that butt up to the Rail Line. He talked to DOE Representatives about the noise and wanted to know the reason for them being at that area. DOE informed us this would never happen again.

In 1996 unbeknown to the Homeowners in this area DOE gave Port of Benton the Rail Line so they could develop the 1100 Area in the City of Richland.

In 1998 the problems began. Boxcars including refrigerated ones were parked on the Spur facing W. Canyon Ave. After many phone calls to DOE we were informed of the "GIVEAWAY" to the Port of Benton. The Columbia Center Estates Homeowners Association President and Agent finally reached Scott Keller of the Port of Benton. Scott stated that they now owned the Line and he would see what he could do about the problem. By November of 1998 a petition [attached] from the Homeowners was given to the Port of Benton asking for the Box Cars to be removed, as our Property values were greatly reduced, and those that wanted to sell couldn't, due to boxcars and Refrigerated cars parked 50 to 150 feet from their back doors.

In 1999 many times the Columbia Center Estates Association President and Agent called Scott Keller of the Port of Benton for help. Scott gave John Crockett the phone number of the President of the Tri City Railroad Co. who told him in certain words that The Rail Line belonged to the Tri-City Rail Road Co. and they could do what ever they wanted and when they wanted. Scott Keller of the Port of Benton was informed, and he said he would take care of this.

In 2000 we finally requested a meeting with the Port of Benton Director, Ben Bennett, Scott Keller, and the Three Port Commissioners. We were informed at that meeting that everything would be taken care of as soon as the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern gave the Tri-City Rail Road Co. the right of way on their tracks which go into the Kennewick Switching yards. In September 2000 we received a copy of the letter that was sent to the Tri-City Rail Road Co. by the Port of Benton which gave written notice to Union Pacific terminating its rights to use the Port of Benton Track [see attached letter] SO NOW IT'S A STALEMATE. In October 2000 a letter was sent to us from Scott Keller stating all parties are working in good faith to quickly finalize agreements. [See attached letter]

It is now March 2002 and we have daily and nightly movement and placement of Boxcars on the Spurs that surround us [see map]. We have homeowners on Yellowstone Ave. that had to sleep at motels due to the awful noise of the refrigerated cars. Also some Homeowners have been unable to sell their homes due to the unsightly and noisy cars parked in the back of their homes. In 2000 we were told this problem would be taken care of, so far we are kept awake at night by excessive noise while Box cars are moved in and out and left running [refrigerated cars]. Our area has become a Rail Road Boxcar switching station.

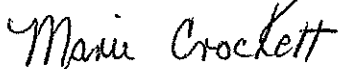
The problem is that Union Pacific will not allow Tri-City Railroad Co. use of their tracks and the Tri-City Rail Road Co. will not allow the Union Pacific use of their tracks. These TRACKS are one and the same, but there is an imaginary line that says this is as far as you go, Now Stop. Our area of homes is that Spot. So the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern use The spur lines as holding areas for all types of boxcars.

Please, is there any possible way you can give us some help since DOE, a Government Agency, gave this line away to the Port of Benton free and clear without any notification of surrounding Homeowners, or give notice of their intentions in the newspaper. We believe there is a satisfactory solution if only all Parties will give a little, and each can benefit from an agreement to share their rail lines with each other. Thus eliminating the need to use the three [3] spur lines now in daily and nightly use. These spurs were never intended to be used as a switching area or for storage.

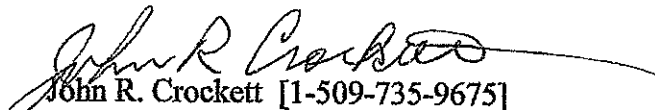
We believe that the DOE Richland Office owes us the Homeowners and taxpayers some relief in this matter.

We would be happy to have any or all of you come and visit with us while the change of the guard is in full swing, so you can hear what the people in this area go through. We wish to have you see as well as hear what its like.

Waiting to Hear from you:



Marie Crockett [1-509-735-9675]
Columbia Center Estates Homeowners Association
Secretary/Treasurer
8409 W. Canyon Ave.
Kennewick, WA, 99336-7934



John R. Crockett [1-509-735-9675]
Columbia Center Estates Homeowners Association
President and Agent
8409 W. Canyon Ave.
Kennewick, Wa. 99336-7934

Attachments:
Two [2] letters from Port of Benton
Petition by Homeowners [first page]
Map of the Railroad Lines