

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of  
  
ALCOA,  
  
Petitioner,  
  
Rescinding Previous Commission  
Order Granting Exemption from  
Clearance Rules

DOCKET TR-980783  
  
ORDER 02  
  
RESCINDING ORDER GRANTING  
EXEMPTION FROM RULES

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On March 6, 1998, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered an order granting Alcoa (Alcoa or Company) an exemption from the Commission’s side and overhead clearance rules for tank car unloading arms at the Alcoa plant located in Malaga, Washington.
- 2 Commission staff (Staff) inspected the facility on June 3, 2024, and observed that the facility was in the process of being dismantled. The tank car unloading facility appeared inoperable and the holding tanks had been removed. Staff contacted the Company and requested a letter indicating the status of operations at the facility. On June 7, 2024, Alcoa submitted a letter to the Commission stating that the manufacturing facility permanently closed in 2021. The plant has had no rail traffic on site since 2016 and is scheduled for demolition by December 2025.
- 3 Staff’s observations during inspection and the information provided by Alcoa demonstrate that the reason for the exemptions from the side and overhead clearance rules no longer exist.

**DISCUSSION**

- 4 We agree with Staff’s recommendation and rescind the order granting an exemption from the side and overhead clearance rules. Removing these exemptions is consistent with public interest.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington having jurisdiction over public service companies, including railroads, within the state of Washington. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, and RCW 81.53.
- 6 (2) Commission Staff has investigated the order and recommends it be rescinded.
- 7 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 25, 2024.
- 8 (4) After reviewing the information provided by Staff and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that rescinding the order is in the public interest.

**ORDER**

- 9 The Commission orders that the March 6, 1998, order granting exemption from the Commission's clearance rules be rescinded as of the effective date of this Order.
- 10 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective July 25, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP  
Executive Director and Secretary