

FILE

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**Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio**

PUCO

# Memo

**To:** Docketing Division  
**From:** Leah Thomas-Dalton, Chief, Rail Division  
**C:** Legal Department  
**Re:** PUCO case No. 09-0815-RR-CSS – Alleged trees blocking view of signal the west end of Circleville, Ohio (MP 677.0) Norfolk Southern  
**Date:** February 1, 2010

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The Rail Division Staff was able to successfully mediate this matter. It is therefore recommended that the legal staff proceed with an entry to close the above case.

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Technician SM Date Processed FEB 01 2010

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
RAIL DIVISION**

**Date of Assignment:** September 15, 2009

**Date of Inspection:** September, 21, 2009

**Subject: COMPLAINT Case # 09-815-RR-CSS** Tree limbs blocking a clear view of the signal at the west end of Circleville, Ohio on the Eastbound main track at Milepost 677.0.

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**FINDINGS**

The wayside signal in question is located at approximately N676.9 on the eastbound main track of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Lake Division, Columbus District. An inspection was conducted on September 21, 2009 by Inspector R Heinzman and J Gibson of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The signal was observed by the PUCO from ground level at a distance of approximately 2/10 of one mile (railroad timetable) east of the signal at the west end of the tangent track west of the signal. The clear view of the wayside signal was in fact obstructed as indicated in the complaint.

**SUMMARY**

Immediately upon inspection NS Track Supervisor M Peecher was notified by the PUCO via telephone and informed of our findings. He stated the defect would be corrected that day (Monday 9/21) or the next day (Tuesday 9/22). PUCO Track & Structures report citing the defect was completed and forwarded to NS TS M Peecher via email.

The re-inspection by the PUCO on September 23, 2009 from ground level from the approximate same location as the initial inspection revealed the defect had been corrected. Tree limbs/brush/vegetation had been removed from the wayside area west of the signal allowing for an unobstructed view from the west end of the tangent track west of the EB 676.9 signal

**CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The visual obstruction of the signal in question has been removed as indicated by visual inspection from ground level, correcting the defect. Therefore I recommend the complaint be closed.

Inspector Robert Heinzman  
PUCO Safety Inspector  
September 24, 2009

