

FILE

Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division
Cc: PUCO Legal Department
Date: 7/14/11 *JH*

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2011 JUL 14 PM 3:37
PUCO

Re: PUCO Case No. 11-831-RR-STP- In the matter of a request for Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company to install active grade crossing warning devices in Summit County, City of Twinsburg, at Cannon Road (DOT#472-691M) and Glenwood Drive (DOT#475-951N).

On February 11, 2011, Commission Staff, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company (WE), and the City of Twinsburg, Summit County, Ohio entered into an agreement whereby active grade crossing warning devices would be installed in Summit County, City of Twinsburg, at Cannon Road (DOT#472-691M) and Glenwood Drive (DOT#475-951N).

On February 23, 2011, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the project and requiring the submission of plans and estimates by May 24, 2011.

On May 26, 2011, WE filed with the Rail Division plans and estimates for the two projects.

The plans and estimates submitted by WE have been reviewed and authorization is recommended. (See attached documentation.)



Public Utilities Commission

John R. Kasich, Governor
Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman

Commissioners

Paul A. Centolella
Cheryl Roberto
Steven D. Lesser
Andre T. Porter

July 14, 2011

Mr. Dan Reinsel
Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company
Chief, Signals & Communications
100 E. First Street
Brewster, Ohio 44613

Re: WE Grade Crossings, Cannon Road
(DOT#472-691M) and Glenwood Drive
(DOT#472-951N)

Mr. Reinsel:

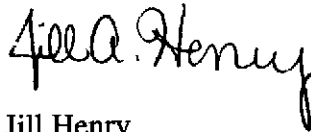
Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad (WE) is now authorized to proceed with field construction for the above referenced project. This authorization is contingent upon accepting the following:

- 1) WE will make any adjustments to the plans noted in the field report docketed July 14, 2011 (Attached).
- 2) WE will provide PUCO Staff with the final estimates and the material package itemization once bidding for the material package is complete.
- 3) WE will furnish e-mail, fax, or phone notification five (5) working days prior to the date work will start at the project site. Notification to be made to Jill Henry, PUCO, at E-MAIL jill.henry@puc.state.oh.us , FAX 614-995-5535, or PHONE 614-466-0435.
- 4) WE will arrange for utilities to be relocated and/or dropped (as soon as possible) at the project site through the applicable utility company.
- 5) WE will arrange for utilities to be located at the project site by the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) prior to any construction activities at the site. Utilities that are not participating members of the OUPS service must be contacted directly by WE.
- 6) WE's project foreman will notify the PUCO Railroad Inspector of any changes in the scope of work, cost overruns, material changes, etc. which are not included in the approved plan and estimates and secure approval of same before the work is performed.
- 7) WE will furnish three (3) copies of each partial bill to the PUCO.

- 8) WE will furnish three (3) copies of the final-inclusive bill to PUCO stating that exact dates of starting and completing work, the initial and final dates of construction and location where the accounts may be audited.
- 9) WE will furnish as-built detailed circuit plans directly to the PUCO.
- 10) WE is to schedule and complete the subject project by February 23, 2012.
If any extraordinary circumstances unique to this project occur, please notify the Commission's rail staff immediately.

Thank you for you cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jill Henry
Rail Specialist
PUCO Rail Division

Enclosure

cc: City of Twinsburg; File

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

Date of Assignment: May 26, 2011

Date of Inspection: June 2, 2011 & July 8, 2011

Subject: Plans and estimates review for active warning devices at rail grade crossings Cannon Road (DOT#472-691M) and Glenwood Drive (DOT#472-951N), Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad (WE), City of Twinsburg, Summit County

DOT #: 472-691M & 472-951N

FINDINGS

On May 26, 2011, the plans and estimates for the above mentioned crossings were received from Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad. They were reviewed by Robert Reustle, PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector, and Jill Henry, PUCO Rail Specialist.

Cannon Road

Cannon Road is a 2-lane roadway traveling East/West and intersecting a single track of WE traveling at an angle across the Cannon Road. Existing warning devices consist of advanced warnings signs, pavement markings, mast-mounted flashing lights, and crossbucks.

In reviewing the site plans & estimates, Staff requested the following additional information from WE and received the responses as noted below.

- 1) The estimate includes a cost of \$5,400 for fill materials and transportation. Please provide details on the amount and type of fill needed for this project and its costs.
Answer: WE provides only a standard guess to estimate fill materials and transportation costs for the project. The project will be billed for actual costs and this typically is lower than the estimated dollar amount.
- 2) The Crosier Site Preparation part of the estimate is \$19,000.00. Please provide details on this charge (i.e. man days, materials, equipment, etc.)
Answer: WE provided this cost breakdown for Staff review and approval.
- 3) A circuit already exists at this crossing since there are already flasher devices. The material list contains a request for 200 bonds. Do you intend to remove the old bonds and double bond the crossing?

Answer: WE will remove the existing bonds and double bond the crossing. WE has experienced false activation issues with past projects when they didn't replace the bonds, so standard practice when updating a crossing is to replace the bonds.

Glenwood Drive

Glenwood Drive is a 2-lane roadway traveling East/West and intersecting a single track of WE traveling North/South across Glenwood Drive. Existing warning devices consist of advanced warnings signs, pavement markings, mast-mounted flashing lights, and crossbucks.

In reviewing the site plans & estimates, Staff requested the following additional information from WE and received the responses as noted below.

- 1) The estimate includes a cost of \$5,400 for fill materials and transportation. Flashers already exist at this crossing and the house will be placed in the same quadrant. Please provide details on the amount and type of fill needed for this project and its costs.

Answer: WE provides only a standard guess to estimate fill materials and transportation costs for the project. The project will be billed for actual costs and this typically is lower than the estimated dollar amount.

- 2) The Crosier Site Preparation part of the estimate is \$19,000.00. Please provide details on this charge (i.e. man days, materials, equipment, etc.)

Answer: WE provided this cost breakdown for Staff review and approval.

- 3) The electric service charge is \$3,500. Service already exists at this crossing. Why is a new one being installed?

Answer: A new service is needed at this location because it is not up to current code and does not have the 120/240 connection we need for the new installation.

- 4) A circuit already exists at this crossing since there are already flasher devices. The material list contains a request for 200 bonds. Do you intend to remove the old bonds and double bond the crossing?

Answer: WE will remove the existing bonds and double bond the crossing. WE has experienced false activation issues with past projects when they didn't replace the bonds, so standard practice when updating a crossing is to replace the bonds.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We reviewed the plans and preliminary estimates for the proposed project. The plans appear to be fundamentally correct. WE will need to provide Staff with a finalized copy of the project estimates and material package itemization once bidding for the material package is complete.

Jill Henry
PUCO Rail Specialist
Date: July 14, 2011