


**Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio**

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division 
Cc: PUCO Legal Department
Date: 10/18/13

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2013 OCT 24 PM 1:58
PUCO

Re: PUCO Case No. 13-820-RR-STP- In the matter of a request for Norfolk Southern Railway Company to install active grade crossing warning devices at SR 13 (DOT#513-492B) in the Village of Chauncey, Athens County.

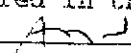
On February 27, 2013, Commission Staff, the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) entered into an agreement (attached) whereby active grade crossing warning devices would be installed in Athens County, at SR 13 (DOT#513-492B).

On April 2, 2013, the Ohio Rail Development Commission authorized funding for the project.

On April 24, 2013, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the project and requiring the submission of plans and estimates by July 24, 2013.

On July 23, 2013, NS filed with the Rail Division plans and estimates for the project. Staff submitted questions to NS and received their responses. Additionally, an on-site review was conducted on August 12, 2013 to address issues regarding guardrail placement at the crossing.

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

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Public Utilities Commission

John R. Kasich, Governor
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October 24, 2013

Ms. Cayela Wimberly
Administrator
Highway Grade Crossing Programs
Norfolk Southern Corporation
1200 Peachtree Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Re: SR 13/Norfolk Southern
Railway/DOT#513-492B

Dear Ms. Wimberly:

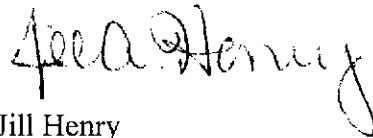
Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) is now authorized to proceed with field construction for the above referenced project. This authorization is contingent upon accepting the following:

- 1) NS will make any adjustments to the plans noted in the field report docketed October 24, 2013 (Attached).
- 1) NS 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 **and** Tim Perkins, ORDC, at E-MAIL Tim.Perkins@dot.state.oh.us, or PHONE 614-580-7749.
- 2) NS will arrange for utilities to be relocated and/or dropped (as soon as possible) at the project site through the applicable utility company.
- 3) NS 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 NS.
- 4) NS's project foreman will notify the PUCO Railroad Inspector and ORDC's Tim Perkins 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.
- 5) NS will furnish three (3) copies of each partial bill to the PUCO and ORDC.

- 6) NS will furnish three (3) copies of the final-inclusive bill to PUCO and ORDC stating that exact dates of starting and completing work, the initial and final dates of construction and location where the accounts may be audited.
- 7) NS will furnish as-built detailed circuit plans directly to the PUCO and ORDC.
- 8) NS is to schedule and complete the subject project by April 24, 2014. If any extraordinary circumstances unique to this project occur, please notify the Commission's rail staff and ORDC immediately.

Thank you for you cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Henry", written in a cursive style.

Jill Henry
Rail Specialist
PUCO Rail Division

Enclosure

cc: ORDC; File

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

Date of Assignment: July 23, 2013

Subject: Plans and estimates review for active warning devices at rail grade crossing SR 13 (DOT# 513-492B) Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS), Athens County

DOT #: 513-492B

FINDINGS

On July 23, 2013, the plans and estimates for the above mentioned crossing were received from Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS). They were reviewed by Shawn Zurfley, PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector, Tim Perkins, Project Manager Ohio Rail Development Commission, and Jill Henry, PUCO Rail Specialist.

SR 13

SR 13 is a 2-lane roadway traveling North/South and turning East/West to intersect the NS mainline track traveling North/South across SR 13. Existing warning devices consist of flashers, advanced warning signs, pavement markings, and crossbucks.

Review

The preliminary plans and estimates have been reviewed by the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and the PUCO. The plans and estimates appear to be fundamentally correct and have the usual and customary charges.

Staff requested the following additional information from NS and received the responses as noted below.

- 1) We have concerns about the house placement at the crossing. The proposed site plans place the house 25' from the nearest rail and 30' from the edge of the roadway. When motorists are approaching the crossing they will not be able to see oncoming traffic because the house will be blocking it. Could we possibly move the house further away from the roadway/crossing?

Answer:

On September 25, 2013, NS provided new plans and estimates that reflected the new placement of the house. The house will now be set 50' off the edge of the roadway and this should help motorists to see oncoming traffic when approaching the crossing.

- 2) At the diagnostic review, we discussed having an extra set of lights on the mast in quadrant A because motorists turning off of Gardner Lane cannot see the lights in Quadrant B when at the intersection of SR 13 and Gardner Lane (located just south of the crossing). This is not listed on the plans and estimates. Does NS feel that the extra set of lights are not necessary?

Answer:

On September 25, 2013, NS provided new plans and estimates that reflected the additional set of lights. There was a project cost increase that had to be reviewed by ORDC and the PUCO and additional funding had to be secured.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The revised plans and estimates for the proposed project (revised on 9/25/13) have been reviewed. Construction authorization should be granted for this project as proposed by NS.

Jill Henry
PUCO Rail Specialist
Date: October 18, 2013