

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Petition of )  
CSX Transportation, Inc. to Close to )  
Vehicular Traffic the Bloomingrove/New ) Case No. 14-379-RR-UNC  
Winchester Road Grade Crossing (DOT )  
No. 262042J), Located in Washington )  
Township, Morrow County, Ohio. )

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) On March 7, 2014, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) filed a petition to close the Bloomingrove/New Winchester Road (Bloomingrove-NW Road Crossing) grade crossing (DOT No. 262042J), located in Washington Township, Morrow County, Ohio.

In its petition, CSX asserts that closure of the Bloomingrove-NW Road Crossing will not cause unreasonable inconvenience. CSX avers that all vehicular traffic can be diverted to adjacent roads and other nearby crossings without causing significant impact on traffic patterns, the operation of emergency vehicles, or commercial enterprises in the area. CSX states that the Bloomingrove-NW Road Crossing is a two-lane rural road which maintains a low volume of vehicular traffic with an estimated traffic count of between 121 and 184 vehicles per day, while the estimated daily train count is 20. CSX also notes that the typical train speed range over the crossing is 55 to 60 miles per hour.

According to CSX, there are three alternative crossings available if the Bloomingrove-NW Road Crossing is closed: the Keifer Road crossing, the Biddle Road crossing, and the State Route 61 (SR 61) crossing, each of which are located within 1.2 linear miles of the Bloomingrove-NW Road Crossing. The Keifer Road crossing and the Biddle Road crossing have a daily vehicle count of 116 and 274,

respectively. The SR 61 crossing has a daily vehicle count of between 6,623 and 6,700 vehicles. All three of the alternative crossings have cross bucks, while the Biddle Road crossing and the SR 61 crossing also have flashing lights and gates. Additionally, CSX states that each alternative crossing is a wide open crossing with excellent sight view in all directions.

CSX adds that the angle of the road to the Bloominggrove-NW Road Crossing and the distance between the tracks strongly support closure of the crossing. In sum, CSX argues that there is no demonstrable need for the Bloominggrove-NW Road Crossing to exist.

- (2) Petitions for closure of railroad crossings are governed by R.C. 4907.475. Pursuant to R.C. 4907.475, in order to grant the petition for closure, the Commission must find that there is no demonstrable need for the crossing to exist.
- (3) To assist the Commission in making its determination, Morrow County, and any other interested person, is invited to file comments in response to the CSX petition by April 30, 2014.
- (4) R.C. 4907.475 also provides that a public hearing on a petition to close a grade crossing shall be held and that notice of the public hearing shall be provided through publication once a week for three consecutive weeks prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The attorney examiner will schedule the local public hearing in this matter by subsequent entry.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That Morrow County, and any other interested persons, may file comments in this matter by April 30, 2014. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served on the Morrow County Commissioners, the Washington Township Trustees, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, CSX and its counsel, the Morrow County Engineer, and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Bryce McKenney

By: Bryce A. McKenney  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 14-0379-RR-UNC**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordered that Morrow County and any other interested persons may file comments by 04/30/2014. - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Bryce McKenney, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio