

FILE

Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio

PUCO

2014 MAY 28 PM 1:52

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Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division
Re: PUCO Case No. 14-790-RR-RCP
Date: May 28, 2014

Please docket the attached staff report in the above referenced case.

**A report by the Staff of the
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

PUCO Case No 14-790-RR-RCP

**In the Matter of a Request by Norfolk Southern Railway to modify Warning
Devices at the West Mill St grade crossing, DOT# 481419L, City of Circleville,
Pickaway County**

May 28, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Rail Division

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) works with local highway authorities and communities to provide safety for the citizens of Ohio at highway-railroad grade crossings.

The PUCO has the statutory authority to regulate and promote the welfare and safety of railroad employees and the traveling public pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4905.471; and

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4907.474 and 4907.475. The sections set forth a variety of factors to be considered by the Commission in determining whether there is a demonstrable need for any public grade crossing to exist and whether any such crossing could be closed to vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, or both and the travel over the grade crossing diverted to other grade crossings.

The PUCO is responsible for evaluating public highway-railroad grade crossings to determine the need for upgrading the warning devices and apportioning the cost thereof pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4907.471.

The PUCO has the authority under Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.63 (B) to declare a grade crossing exempt, whereby vehicles normally required to stop at a grade crossing under that title and Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, 392.10 would be able to proceed through the crossing without stopping.

The PUCO enforces all aspects of the Federal Railroad Administration regulations through inspections and evaluations of Ohio's public highway-railroad grade crossings.

I. DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) is a major Class I railroad, operating over 20,000 miles of track in 22 states and the District of Columbia. Operations in Ohio cover 2,233 miles of track.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On April 28, 2014, under PUCO Case No. 14-790-RR-RCP, the Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) filed a Consent Request to modify the existing warning devices at the W. Mill St grade crossing, DOT# 481419L, in the City of Circleville, Pickaway County. The modification would involve the removal of the 3rd, westernmost mast-mounted flasher at the crossing, due to the removal of the crossing surface and closure of the crossing to vehicular and pedestrian traffic at that point.

III. Database photos from RRIS

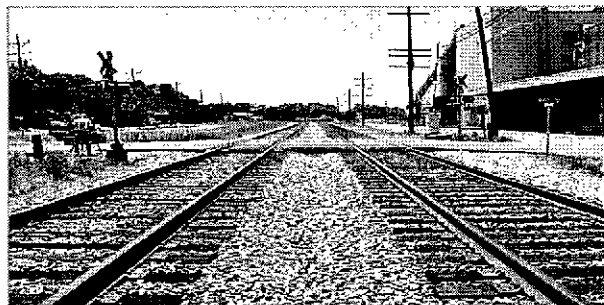


Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

South Direction



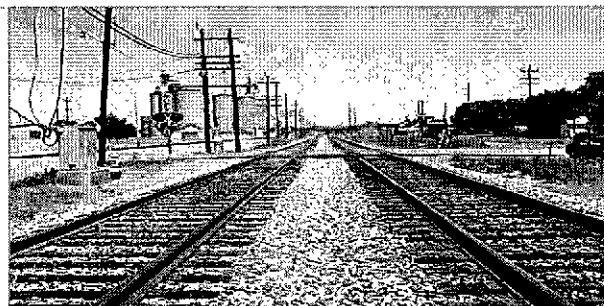
West Direction



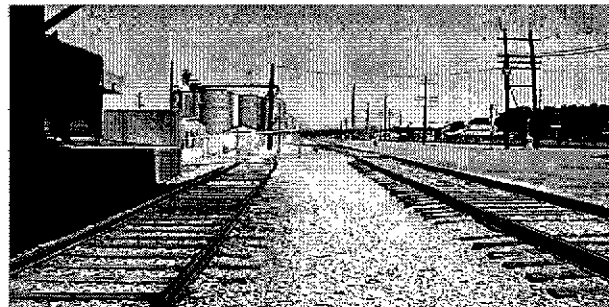
North Direction



East Direction



Photograph 5



Photograph 6



Site Information	
AARDOT:	481419L
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	PIC021
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Mar 19 2013 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Norfolk Southern Corp
Division:	LAKE
Sub-Division:	NW
Branch/Line Name:	MAIN LINE
Milepost:	676.13
Railroad ID:	
Nearest Time Table Station:	CIRCLEVILLE
Parent RR Company:	NS
Crossing Owner:	NS
Location and Classification Information	
County:	PICKAWAY
(Nearest) City:	CIRCLEVILLE
Street:	W MILL ST
Highway and SLM:	
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	65
ODOT NLF ID:	MPICMR00174**C
Latitude:	39.5988697

Longitude:	-82.9507495
Elevation (ft):	673.25
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Commercial
Crossing Angle:	60-90 Degrees
Main Tracks:	3
Other Tracks:	1
Lanes:	2
Warning Devices	
Crossbucks, Standard:	3
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	0
Lights, Mast Mounted:	3
Lights, Cantilevered:	0
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	0
Traffic Information	
Day Thru Trains:	13
Day Switching Trains:	5
Night Thru Trains:	13
Night Switch Trains:	1
Date of Train Count:	Mar 19 2013 12:00AM
Highway AADT:	57

Date of AADT:	2008
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Highway Information

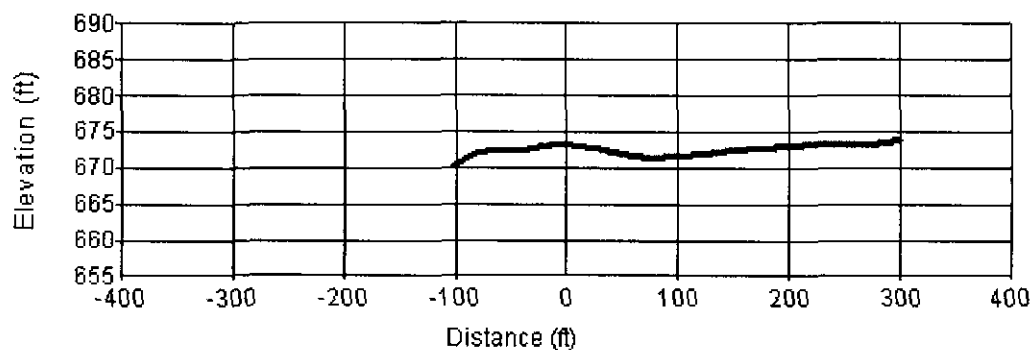
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	20
Type of Intersection:	Highway
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	2

Highway 1:		Highway 2:	
Traffic Light:	NO	Traffic Light:	NO
Flashing Light:	NO	Flashing Light:	NO
Stop Sign:	YES	Stop Sign:	YES
Yield Sign:	NO	Yield Sign:	NO
Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:	20	Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:	45
DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:	NO	DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:	NO

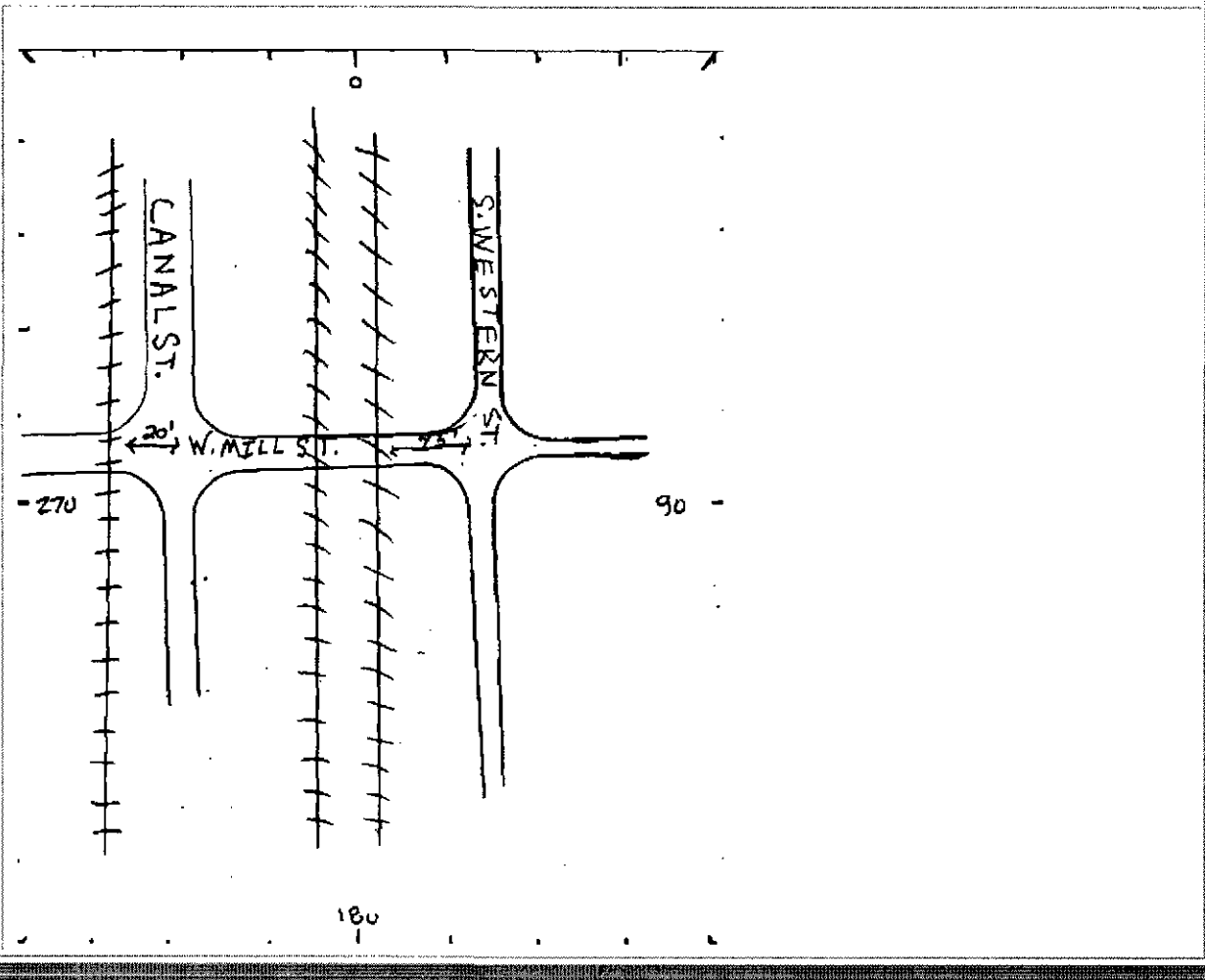
Site Comments

No comments.

Profile



Site Sketch



IV. Staff Report of Investigation

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

Date of Assignment: May 1, 2014

Date of Investigation: May 28, 2014

Subject: Case No. 14-790-RR-RCP In the matter of a request of Norfolk Southern Railway for a downgrade of warning devices at West Mill St, DOT# 481419L, City of Circleville, Pickaway County

Findings

On May 1, 2014, Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) filed a request to remove the westernmost mast-mounted flasher assembly from the W Mill St grade crossing, DOT# 481419L, in the City of Circleville, Pickaway County. NS noted in its filing that this flasher provided warning for a spur track owned by Cargill, that Cargill was adding additional ladder tracks, and removing the crossing into their property at this location.

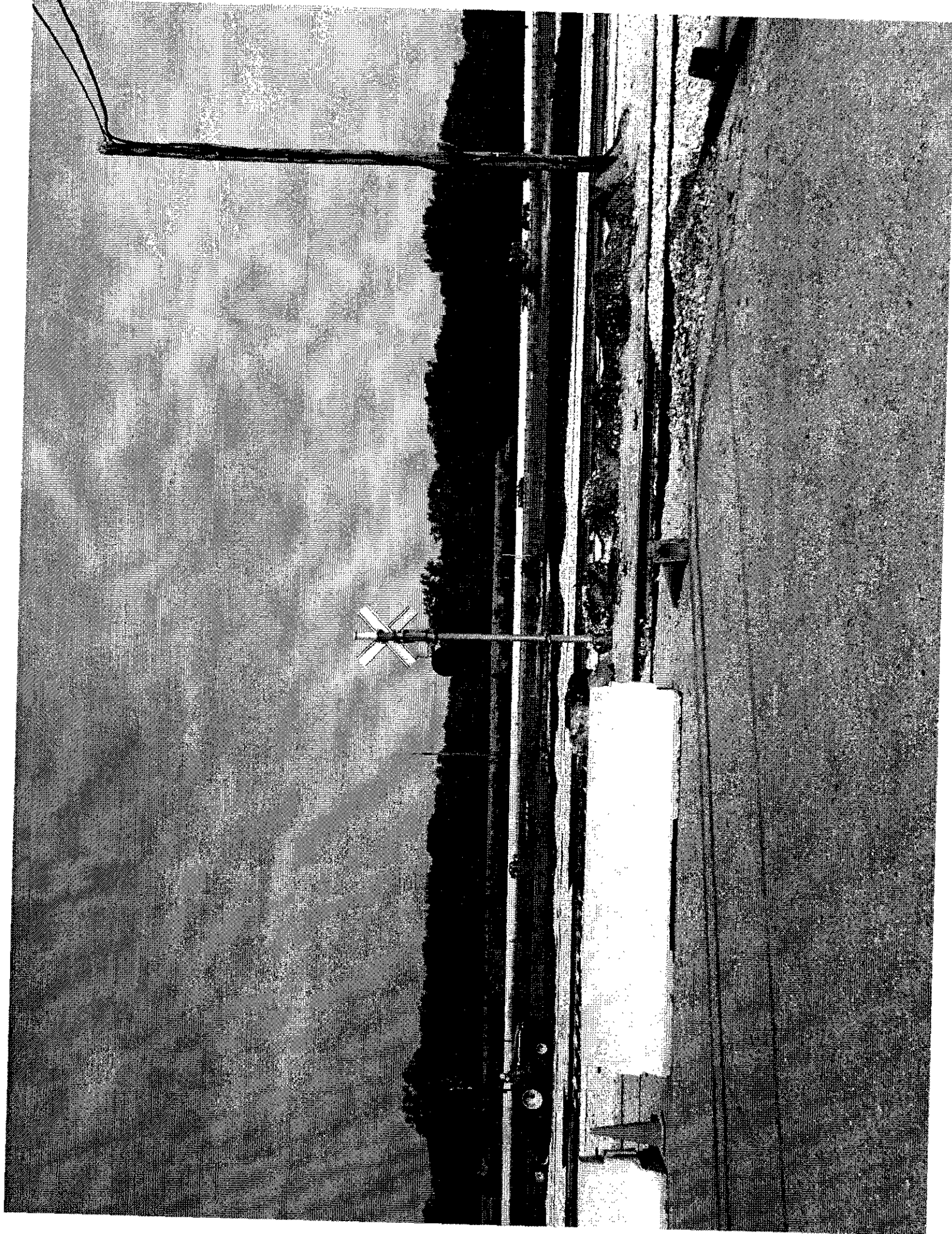
NS further noted that barricades were in place on the eastern side of the spur track. Upon Commission approval of the request, NS would change the "3 TRACKS" placard at the crossing to "2 TRACKS".

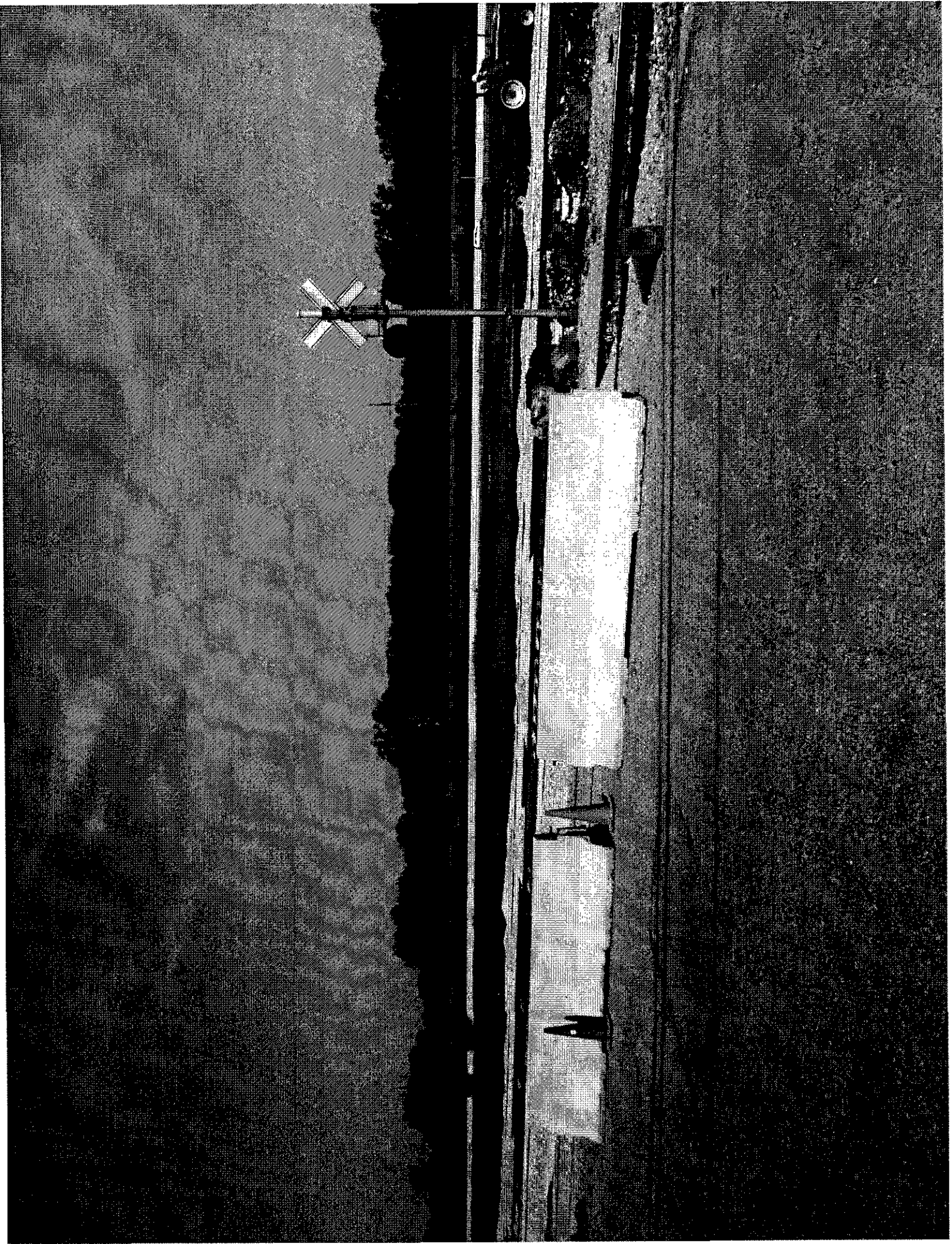
Staff inspected the crossing on May 28, 2014, and found the crossing surface into/serving Cargill at the W Mill St location had been removed, and that concrete barricades had been installed. New ladder tracks were being installed on Cargill's property. The mast-mounted flashing light assembly in question is now located behind these barricades, and no longer serves any purpose. Staff photos are attached to this report.

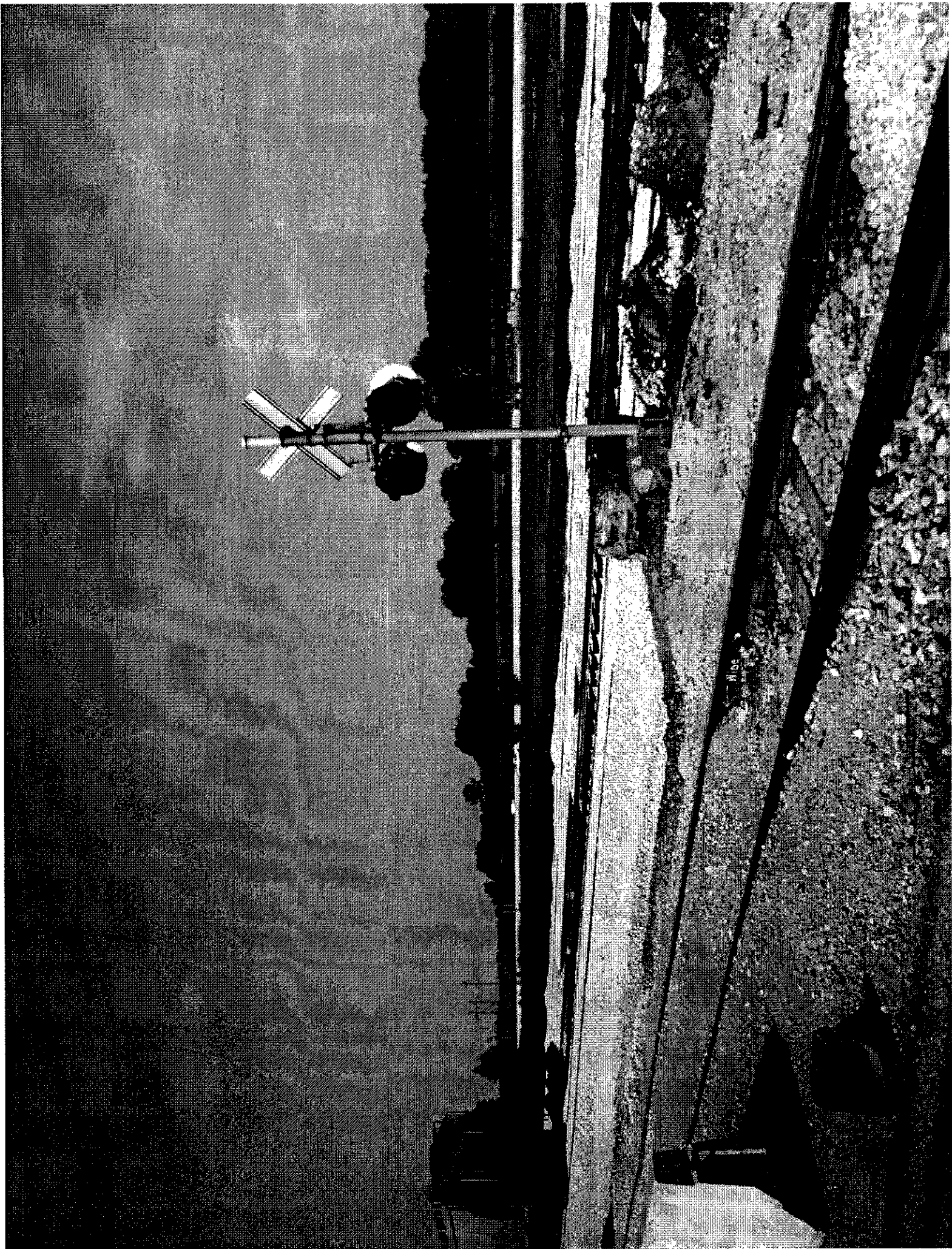
Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Commission grant Norfolk Southern Railway's request.

George Martin
Grade Crossing Planner
Rail Division
Transportation Department







Ohio's Rail Grade Crossing Programs

Ohio is a national leader in terms of railroad operations. Ohio is home to nearly 40 railroads that operate thousands of trains in Ohio every day over approximately 5,200 miles of track and 5,900 public grade crossings. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the state agency with regulatory authority over railroads operating in Ohio. The Commission works in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure that rail operations and infrastructure are safe and in compliance with federal and state regulations.

In addition to central office planners and other support staff, the PUCO employs federally certified railroad inspectors throughout Ohio. These inspectors respond to inquiries and complaints and conduct specialized inspections of railroad tracks and equipment, rail operations, hazardous material transportation, and grade crossing signal circuitry. The inspectors also monitor railroad rights-of-way and grade crossings for surface conditions, view obstruction, fencing and drainage concerns, conditions on railroad equipment and at rail yards and other facilities, and related safety concerns of both the PUCO and railroad employees.

PUCO inspectors investigate all grade crossing and railroad employee fatalities and monitor company inspections of rail bridges throughout the state.

Safety is our highest priority

Grade crossing safety is one of the PUCO's highest priorities, and we are proud of our accomplishments. Since 1990, motor vehicle/train crashes at grade crossings in Ohio have declined by 66 percent and the number of fatalities has dropped by 77 percent. This dramatic improvement has been achieved during a period of steady increase in the amount of train traffic and in the number of registered motor vehicles and licensed drivers in Ohio. Over the past 10 years, the PUCO has participated in the installation of lights and gates at more than 1,000 grade crossings across Ohio. We look forward to working with your community to help make grade crossings as safe as possible.

Questions or Concerns?

Call the Ohio Rail Hotline at (866) 814-RAIL or log on to www.OhioRail.ohio.gov for answers to all of your railroad crossing needs.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
John R. Kasich, Governor
Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman

180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793
800 | 686-PUCO (7826)

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