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## **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

# Memo

To: Docketing Division

From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division

Cc: PUCO Legal Department

Date: 8/5/14

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Re: PUCO Case No. 13-301-RR-STP- In the matter of a request for Norfolk Southern Railway Company to install active grade crossing warning devices in the Village of Ashville

at Griggs Street (DOT#481-432A) in Pickaway County.

On January 4, 2013, Commission Staff, the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS), and the Village of Ashville, Ohio (LHA) entered into an agreement (attached) whereby active grade crossing warning devices would be installed in Pickaway County, at Griggs Street (DOT#481-432A).

On January 8, 2013, the Ohio Rail Development Commission authorized funding for the project.

On February 13, 2013, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the project and requiring the submission of plans and estimates by May 14, 2013 and for construction to be completed by February 13, 2014.

On May 2, 2013, NS filed with the Rail Division plans and estimates for the project. Construction authorization was granted on June 7, 2013.

On January 23, 2013, NS submitted a request for a six month extension of time for the completion of the project. In that request, NS noted that they were working with the Village of Ashville to coordinate the necessary roadway work that must be done in conjunction with the installation of the signals. On February 5, 2014, the Commission granted a six month extension until August 13, 2014.

NS filed another six month extension request on July 30, 2014 (see attached). In the request NS states that related track work has been completed and that the Village of Ashville has reprofiled the roadway approach to compensate for the track adjustments. This required that the adjacent intersection be redesigned. The Village has finalized those new roadway designs and hopes to complete the work by December 2014. NS will then be able to finish construction of the crossing signals.

Since NS cannot complete the crossing project until the roadway work is completed, staff recommends that the Commission grant the extension request.

#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of a Request for Norfolk Southern Railway Company to Install

Active Grade Crossing Warning

Devices at Griggs Street, in the Village of Ashville, Pickaway

County.

Case No. 13-301-RR-STP

**CONSENT REQUEST FOR** 

**EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION** 

**DEADLINE** 

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Attorneys for Norfolk Southern

Railway Company

With the consent of the Village of Ashville, Norfolk Southern Railway Company respectfully requests an additional extension of time of six (6) months – through February 13, 2015 – within which to complete the instant construction project.

A memorandum in support is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

EASTMAN & SMITH LTD.

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#### **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

This is a complex construction project which involves the relocation of the existing Griggs Street grade crossing (481-432A), and related surface and signal work, in furtherance of the Village's master development plan, and includes the installation of flashing lights and gates at the relocated crossing.

The parties continue to work well together here, but respectfully request additional time to complete this project which has taken longer than anticipated, due at least in part to inclement weather, including deeply frozen ground over the winter which delayed related track work in the vicinity of the relocated crossing. Norfolk Southern has now completed the related track work (raising, etc.), and the Village has re-profiled the proposed roadway approach, to compensate for track adjustment, and re-designed the adjacent intersection.

So the Village is now finalizing the involved roadway plans, and is preparing to bid and award the roadway contract, with the expectation that the actual roadway work will be completed by or about December of 2014. Following completion of the roadway work, Norfolk Southern would perform signal installation at the relocated crossing, with completion anticipated by or about February of 2015. Norfolk Southern would then perform any requisite touch-up

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work, including the removal of the signals and surface at the site of the existing crossing, and then final touch-up work at the site of the relocated crossing which would then be opened for vehicular traffic.

In light of the above, and with the Village's consent, Norfolk Southern respectfully requests an additional extension of time of six (6) months – through February 13, 2015 – within which to complete the instant construction project.

Respectfully submitted,

EASTMAN & SMITH LTD.

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#### PROOF OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Consent Request for Extension of Construction Deadline was filed with the Commission electronically this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014. Notice of this filing will be sent by operation of the Court's electronic filing system to all parties indicated on the electronic filing receipt. Parties may access this filing through the Court's system.

/s/ D. Casey Talbott
Attorney for Norfolk Southern
Railway Company

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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). 13-0301-RR-STP

Summary: Request Consent Request for Extension of Construction Deadline electronically filed by Mr. D. Casey Talbott on behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company