

Memo

TO: Docketing Division

From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division

Cc: PUCO Legal Department

Date: 5/23/17

Re: PUCO Case No. 16-1560-RR-FED- In the Matter of the Authorization of the Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad to install active grade crossing warning devices in Hardin and Allen Counties.

On March 16, 2016, the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) authorized funding for Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad (CF&E) to install lights and gates at the Grubb Road/CR 77, DOT#532-733N, grade crossing in Allen County, Ohio. The project design was approved and construction authorization was granted on July 12, 2016 by the ORDC.

On August 17, 2016, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the project and requiring project completion by May 17, 2017.

CF&E initiated a request for electric service from AEP in January 2017. They met on-site with AEP on January 11, 2017. The service person from AEP changed after the initial on-site meeting, so there was another on-site meeting where AEP determined that a 40' service pole would be required to provide service due to the telephone lines on the utility poles.

CF&E has installed the electric service pole and is still waiting on AEP to complete the service installation. On May 12, 2017, the CF&E was informed that AEP would complete their work by May 17, 2017. It is anticipated that the contractor will mobilize after the power service installation is completed. The railroad is requesting an additional 30 days to complete the project.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the 30 day extension request.

FILE



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PUCO

May 12, 2017

Ohio Public Utilities Division
PUCO Docketing Division
180 E Broad St
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Subject: **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION – Grubb Road, Elida, Allen County, Ohio**
Upgrade to Lights and Gates – Case: 16-1560-RR-FED

Reference: Agency ID: Grubb Road (PID 101887)
AAR/DOT #: 532733N
RR Reimb.#: 16CFER02R
CFER #: Milepost: MP 268.83
Lima Subdivision

Dear Ms. Henry:

Patrick Engineering (Patrick), on behalf of the Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad, is requesting a 30-day extension for the above-referenced project for the following reasons:

Patrick received a copy of the Finding and Order for the Grubb Road crossing on 8/18/16. Patrick contacted AEP and met representatives in the field in early January, then awarded bids for the signal work in February. We have continued to work with AEP in an attempt to meet the 5/17/17 deadline in the Order, but unfortunately due to changes in service pole requirements by AEP we will not meet the deadline and are requesting a 30 day extension. Below is a summary of the steps taken thus far and the issues we've encountered, along with our proposed schedule.

Patrick met Cindy Buzard (AEP) at the Grubb Road crossing site on 1/11/17. We discussed the proposed location of the service pole and were informed that they would need to cross SR-309 (Elida Road) to service the pole, but there were no apparent issues with AEP connecting per the plan. We created a Purchase Order and scheduled Kleine Electric to install the pole dependent on approval from AEP.

Patrick followed up with AEP and was informed that Chris Postle was taking over for Cindy and scheduled a second meeting to discuss the service. At the site, AEP noted that the 25' pole from the proposed plans would not be acceptable unless the telephone company nearby raised their pole for AEP to connect to. This would require additional cost and time to coordinate with the telephone company.

We discussed alternatives and determined that if Kleine Electric installed a 40' service pole, the cable would have enough clearance to avoid conflicts with the telephone company. Since this alternative would involve fewer costs and would avoid coordination with another utility, we went forward with the taller service pole.

AEP has notified us that the earliest they can connect the service is next week which will not allow the signal contractor (Armond Cassil) to complete their work by the 5/17/17 date. In order to provide Armond Cassil time to mobilize after the power service is installed, we are proposing that they start

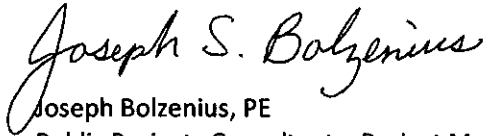
3650 Olentangy River Road, Suite 110, Columbus, OH 43214

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Technician SM Date Processed MAY 17 2017

work on 5/22/17 with completion by 5/26/17. Therefore we are requesting a 30-day extension to install the power service and the signals.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph S. Bolzenius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Joseph Bolzenius, PE
Public Projects Consultant – Project Manager

cc: Don Damron (ORDC)
Toby Tobias (CFER)

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Case No(s). 16-1560-RR-FED

Summary: Response In the Matter of a Request for the Extension of the Completion Deadline for Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad to install active grade crossing warning devices at Grubb Road in Allen County. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of PUCO/Rail Division