

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Authorization of Norfolk )  
Southern Railway to Install an Active Grade ) Case No. 06-1293-RR-FED  
Crossing Warning Device in Stark County, )  
City of Canton. )

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) On October 26, 2006, the Commission's railroad staff filed a memorandum stating that The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) had authorized Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) to install an active warning device at the State Route 172/Tuscarawas Street grade crossing (502-751E), located in the city of Canton, Stark County.
- (2) Staff indicated that NS requested additional time to complete engineering requirements and the project. Staff noted that no specific reasons had been given by NS or ORDC for the request for an extension of time and recommended authorization for preliminary engineering within 90 days and a construction deadline of one year for the project.
- (3) NS should submit to the Commission and ORDC by February 8, 2007, site plans and cost estimates for the project. Within seven days thereafter, NS should file a letter in this docket advising that the site plans and costs estimates have been submitted to the Commission and ORDC. Following submission and approval of the site plans and cost estimates by ORDC, and, unless otherwise directed, NS is hereby authorized to acquire project materials and to commence construction as detailed in the letter of construction authorization. The Commission will issue no further construction authorization. Further, the construction of the active warning device at the grade crossing should be completed by November 8, 2007.
- (4) In order to expedite the activation of the warning device, the Commission no longer requires railroad companies to delay such activation pending final inspection by staff. However,

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the railroad should notify staff and ORDC 30 days before the projected date of completion. At the time the Commission or ORDC staff makes its final inspection of the device and if it finds that the identified installation is completed and has been put in service, staff should file a memorandum in this docket directing the docketing division to close this case of record.

- (5) With the intention of promoting increased public safety during the pendency of the project, the Commission urges the appropriate local government agencies to make an immediate assessment of interim physical improvements, which would enhance driver awareness at the crossing. The Commission may provide assistance in funding improvements such as rumble strips, illumination, signs, or other safety enhancements at the project locations. Applications for such funding should be made to the Commission's Transportation Department, Rail Division, which shall review all proposals. In the event the department finds the improvements appropriate, the department director is hereby authorized to execute a contract with the local government agency, and obligate up to \$5,000 from the State Grade Crossing Safety Fund for such improvements. However, the local government agency should not initiate any improvements until a contract has been executed.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That NS submit to the Commission and ORDC site plans and cost estimates for the project by February 8, 2007. It is, further,

ORDERED, That, by February 15, 2007, NS file a letter in this docket advising that it has submitted site plans and cost estimates to the Commission and ORDC. It is, further,

ORDERED, That, following approval of site plans and cost estimates by ORDC, NS proceed with construction of the project, with construction to be completed by November 8, 2007. It is, further,

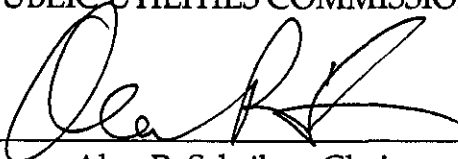
ORDERED, That NS follow the detailed instructions as outlined in the ORDC letter of construction authorization. It is, further,

ORDERED, That NS notify the Commission and ORDC 30 days before the projected date of completion. It is, further,

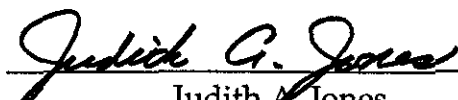
ORDERED, That, at the time staff or ORDC makes its final inspection and if it finds that the installation at the grade crossing is completed and has been put in service, staff will file a memorandum in this docket directing the docketing division to close this case of record. It is, further,

ORDERED, That copies of this entry be served upon the NS and its counsel, Mayor of the city of Canton, ORDC, and all interested persons of record.

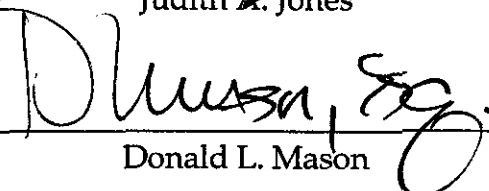
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

  
Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

  
Ronda Hartman Fergus


  
Judith A. Jones

  
Valerie A. Lemmie

  
Donald L. Mason

SEF:ct

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NOV 08 2006

  
Renee J. Jenkins  
Secretary