

FILE

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Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio

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Memo

PUCO

To: Docketing Division

From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division

Cc: PUCO Legal Department

Date: 5/6/2010

Re: PUCO Case No. 10-574-RR-RCP- In the matter of the application for request of Norfolk Southern Railway Company to downgrade the existing warning devices at the Sylvania Avenue Grade Crossing (508-865M) in Sylvania Township, Lucas County, Ohio.

On April 27, 2010, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) filed a request for the downgrade of active warning devices to passive devices at Sylvania Avenue in the City of Sylvania, Lucas County, Ohio (DOT#508-806S). On April 29, 2010, NS amended its request to seek only a temporary downgrade of the warning devices.

According to the NS, Lucas County has begun an extensive roadway project in the area of the crossing and the roadway configuration will change from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction (merging down to one lane at the crossings). The Lucas County Engineer has requested that NS remove the existing crossing signal equipment at the crossing since it would be impossible to relocate the equipment and accomplish its intended purpose during roadway construction.

The Sylvania Avenue crossing is currently equipped with cantilever lights and gates. The roadway is paved with two traffic lanes running East and West. Highway speed will be dramatically reduced during construction for construction zone safety. NS currently operates approximately one train per week on this crossing and has an internal "Stop and Flag" order for train movements at this crossing. There have been no train/vehicle crashes reported at this crossing in the past 7 years. The average daily traffic count at this crossing is 16,980 vehicles per day, as measured in September 2008.

The roadway construction has commenced and is scheduled to be completed by July 27, 2010. Lucas County has informed NS that they would like the warning devices removed prior to June 1, 2010.

Staff recommends the following:

1. An Entry be issued granting the temporary downgrade of the active warning devices at Sylvania Avenue without public hearing.
2. The Entry allow for the time period of now until July 27, 2010, as specified by NS in its amended request of April 29, 2010.
3. NS should place the warning devices back into service by July 27, 2010.
4. NS should notify the Commission of any delays in the project and the completion of the project.

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