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Commission of Ohio

# Memo

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PUCO

**To:** Docketing Division

**From:** Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division

**Cc:** PUCO Legal Department

**Date:** 1/26/12

**Re:** PUCO Case No. 11-406-RR-STP- In the matter of a request for the Installation of Active Warning Devices at the Norfolk Southern Railway Company Grade Crossing at S. Union Street (DOT#502-653N) in the Village of Lucas, Richland County.

On December 15, 2010, Commission Staff, The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS), and the Village of Lucas, Ohio entered into an agreement whereby active grade crossing warning devices would be installed in Richland County at S. Union Street (DOT#502-653N).

On January 21, 2011, The Ohio Rail Development Commission authorized funding for the project.

On February 2, 2011, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the project and requiring the submission of plans and estimates by May 3, 2011 and for construction to be completed by February 2, 2012.

On April 18, 2011, NS filed with the Rail Division plans and estimates for the project. Construction authorization was granted on May 10, 2011.

On January 26, 2012, NS submitted a request for a 30 day extension of time for the completion of the project. In that request, NS noted that delays in resolving utility conflicts and open cutting during construction created delays in completion of the project. Construction started for this project on January 16, 2012 and is currently in progress. The crew on site decided to open cut instead of boring in the underground wiring. This made for a slower installation process, but due to the large amount of underground utilities to avoid was justified. Construction should be able to be completed more timely than in 30 days.

Staff notes that construction authorization was granted on May 10, 2011 and that NS waited eight months to begin construction. Staff recommends that the Commission grant a 10 day extension at this time.

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