

FILE

**Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio**

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division
Re: PUCO Case Nos. 16-1216-RR-RCP, 16-1217-RR-RCP, and 16-1365-RR-RCP
Date: June 30, 2016

Please file the attached staff reports respectively in the above referenced case numbers.

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2016

DOCKETING DIVISION
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

C: Legal Department

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician fe Date Processed JUN 30 2016

**A report by the Staff of the
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

PUCO Case No 16-1216-RR-RCP

**In the Matter of the Petition by the Mahoning County Engineer for an Exempt
Crossing Designation at Mahoning County, Palmyra Rd/CR 136, DOT# 502481H**

June 30, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Rail Division

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) works with local highway authorities and communities to provide safety for the citizens of Ohio at highway-railroad grade crossings.

The PUCO has the statutory authority to regulate and promote the welfare and safety of railroad employees and the traveling public pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4905.471; and

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4907.474 and 4907.475. The sections set forth a variety of factors to be considered by the Commission in determining whether there is a demonstrable need for any public grade crossing to exist and whether any such crossing could be closed to vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, or both and the travel over the grade crossing diverted to other grade crossings.

The PUCO is responsible for evaluating public highway-railroad grade crossings to determine the need for upgrading the warning devices and apportioning the cost thereof pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4907.471.

The PUCO has the authority under Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.63 (B) to declare a grade crossing exempt, whereby vehicles normally required to stop at a grade crossing under that title and Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, 392.10 would be able to proceed through the crossing without stopping.

The PUCO enforces all aspects of the Federal Railroad Administration regulations through inspections and evaluations of Ohio's public highway-railroad grade crossings.

I. DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

The Mahoning County Engineer is the local highway authority with jurisdiction over Palmyra Rd/CR 136, crossing at-grade with the Norfolk Southern Railway, and having DOT# 502481H.

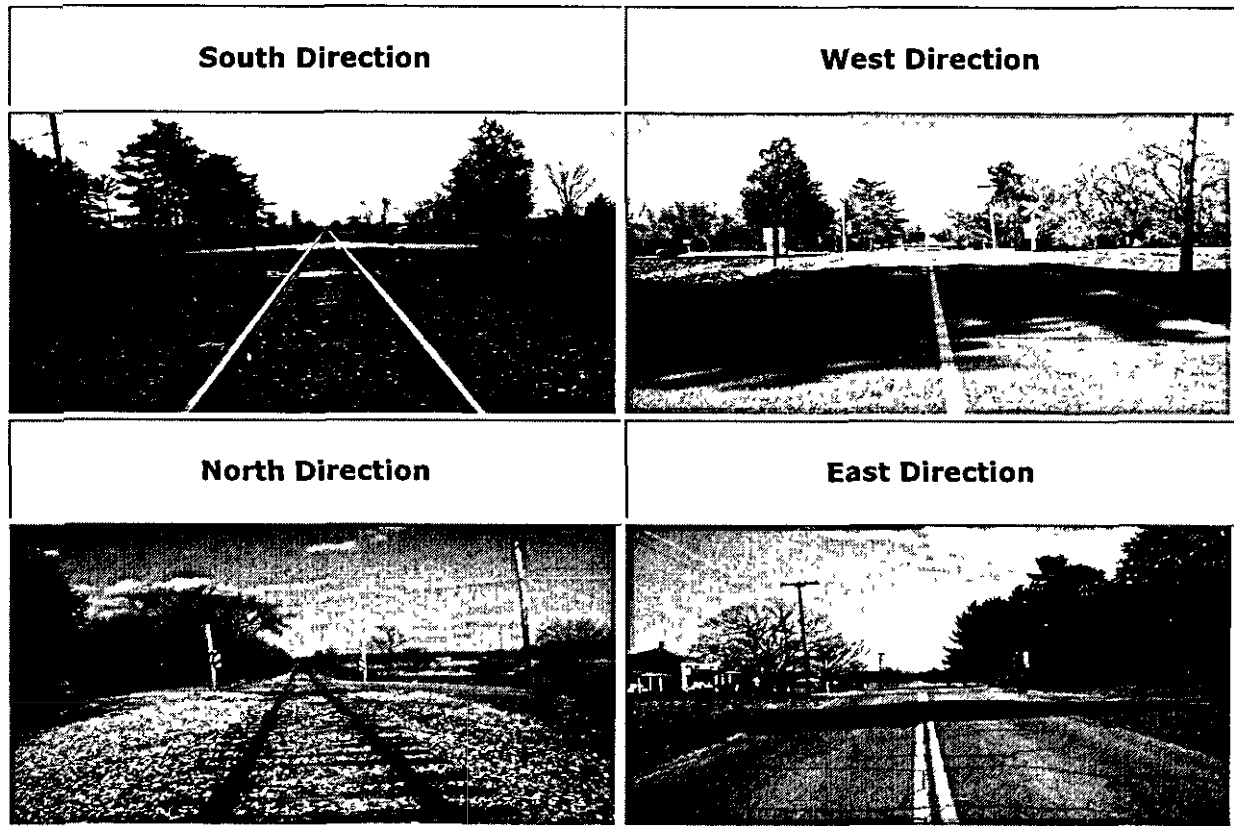
II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On May 31, 2016, Patrick Gianetti, Mahoning County Engineer, filed in this docket a request for the grade crossing on Palmyra Rd/CR 136, DOT# 502481H, to be designated "exempt" under 4511.63 Ohio Revised Code.

III. Database photos



Public Utilities Commission of Ohio



Site Information	
AARDOT:	502481H
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	MAH029

Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Dec 21 2012 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Norfolk Southern Corp
Division:	PITTSBURGH
Sub-Division:	402425
Branch/Line Name:	LORDSTOWN SEC
Milepost:	22.05
Railroad ID:	
Nearest Time Table Station:	N JACKSON
Parent RR Company:	NS
Crossing Owner:	NS
Location and Classification Information	
County:	MAHONING
(Nearest) City:	NORTH JACKSON
Street:	PALMYRA RD
Highway and SLM:	CR136
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	50
ODOT NLF ID:	CMAHCR00136**C
Latitude:	41.0621307
Longitude:	-80.8831652
Elevation (ft):	1071.49
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	MAHONING COUNTY

LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Residential
Crossing Angle:	30-59 Degrees
Main Tracks:	1
Other Tracks:	0
Lanes:	2

Warning Devices

Crossbucks, Standard:	0
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	2
Lights, Mast Mounted:	0
Lights, Cantilevered:	0
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	0

Traffic Information

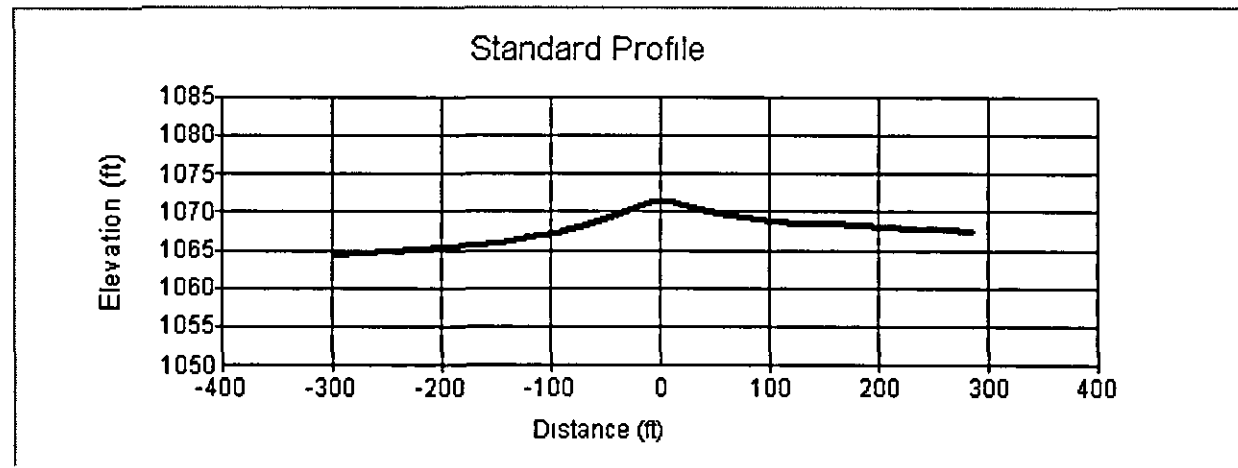
Day Thru Trains:	0
Day Switching Trains:	0
Night Thru Trains:	0
Night Switch Trains:	0
Date of Train Count:	Mar 2 2011 12:00AM
Highway AADT:	1579
Date of AADT:	2011

Highway Information

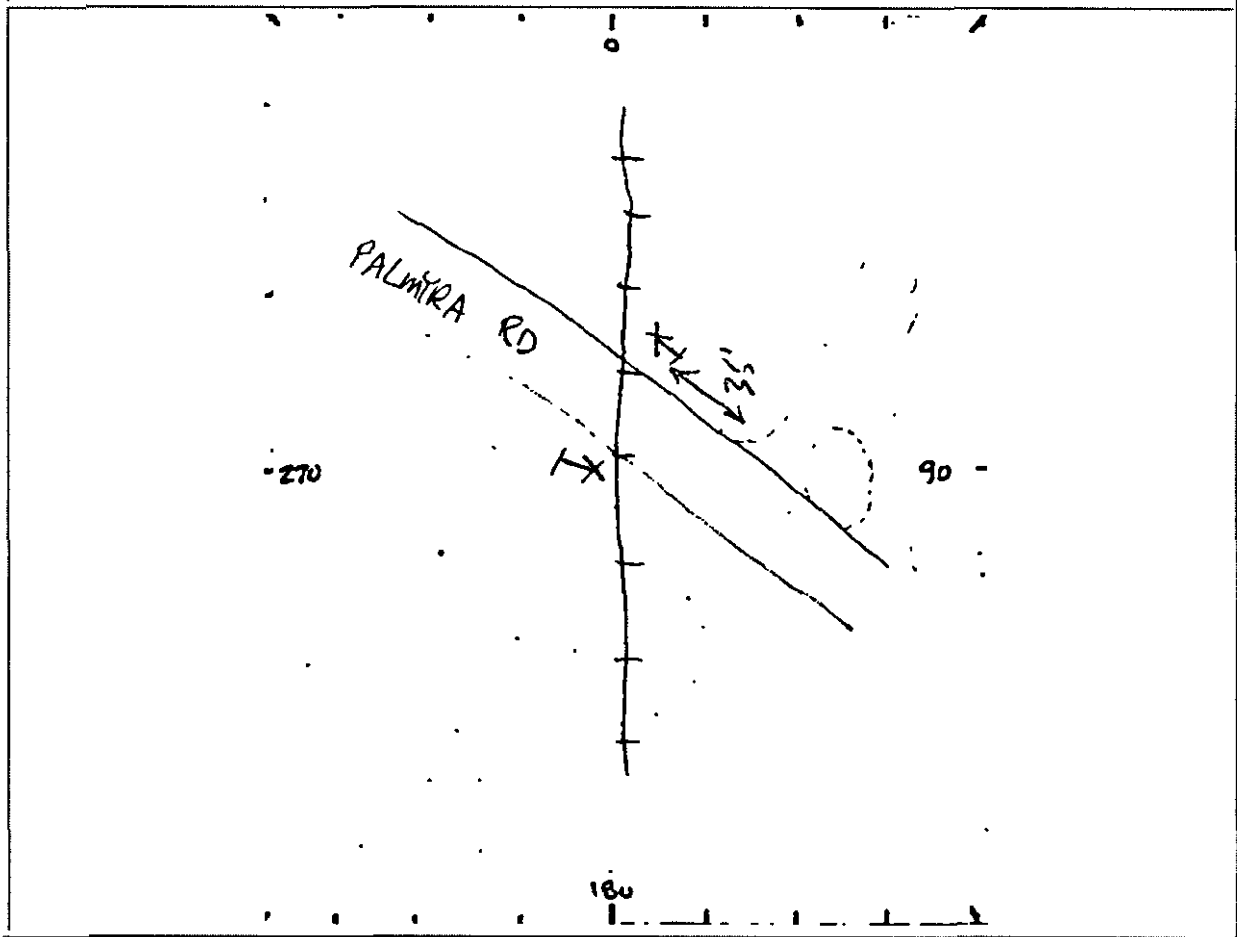
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	35
Type of Intersection:	Residential Drive
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	0

Site Comments

No comments.



Site Sketch



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
RAIL DIVISION**

Date of Assignment: June 16, 2016

Date of Inspection: June 17, 2016

Subject: 16-1216-RR-RCP, Petition for Exemption, Palmyra Rd., , Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Railway, Pittsburgh Division, Lordstown Secondary.

DOT No: 502481H

FINDINGS

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on June 17, 2016. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Ellsworth. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west and is intersected by a highway rail grade crossing owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway (NS). The tracks intersect the roadway at M. P. 22.05 and run north and south. The crossing consists of one main track which currently has standard crossbucks and yield signs as a passive highway-rail grade crossing warning system. The roadway which is a County route has a posted highway speed of 45 mph., which has been paved over with asphalt. The north and south approaches have advanced warning signs and pavement markings.

The Crossing has a moderate to low volume of traffic with Ellsworth Schools City District having to stop on route at this crossing at least a couple times a day with "Flashing lights, stop and listen" to comply with Ohio Revised Code: 4511.

On June 28, 2016 I spoke with Mr. Mike Seatter, NS Assistant Division Engineer. I advised him of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroad train traffic ove the line. Mr. Seatter advised me they have one customer on the line at M. P. 20 and the rail traffic does not go past this Mile post. Mr. Seatter advised me that the rail line is out service and crossings to the north do not have train service over them.

SUMMARY

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the roadway. The County route is used by both school buses, County and multiple hazardous material vehicles and the exemption would help reduce the possibility of rear end collisions due to these vehicles stopping at the crossing.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption over the highway rail grade crossing.

Randy Johr
PUCO Rail Inspector
Date: June 29, 2016

CC: Complainant
Additional cc's

V. Ohio's Rail Grade Crossing Programs

Ohio is a national leader in terms of railroad operations. Ohio is home to nearly 40 railroads that operate thousands of trains in Ohio every day over approximately 5,200 miles of track and 5,900 public grade crossings. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the state agency with regulatory authority over railroads operating in Ohio. The Commission works in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure that rail operations and infrastructure are safe and in compliance with federal and state regulations.

In addition to central office planners and other support staff, the PUCO employs federally certified railroad inspectors throughout Ohio. These inspectors respond to inquiries and complaints and conduct specialized inspections of railroad tracks and equipment, rail operations, hazardous material transportation, and grade crossing signal circuitry. The inspectors also monitor railroad rights-of-way and grade crossings for surface conditions, view obstruction, fencing and drainage concerns, conditions on railroad equipment and at rail yards and other facilities, and related safety concerns of both the PUCO and railroad employees.

PUCO inspectors investigate all grade crossing and railroad employee fatalities and monitor company inspections of rail bridges throughout the state.

Safety is our highest priority

Grade crossing safety is one of the PUCO's highest priorities, and we are proud of our accomplishments. Since 1990, motor vehicle/train crashes at grade crossings in Ohio have declined by 66 percent and the number of fatalities has dropped by 77 percent. This dramatic improvement has been achieved during a period of steady increase in the amount of train traffic and in the number of registered motor vehicles and licensed drivers in Ohio. Over the past 10 years, the PUCO has participated in the installation of lights and gates at more than 1,000 grade crossings across Ohio. We look forward to working with your community to help make grade crossings as safe as possible.

Questions or Concerns?

Call the Ohio Rail Hotline at (866) 814-RAIL or log on to www.OhioRail.ohio.gov for answers to all of your railroad crossing needs.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
John R. Kasich, Governor
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793
800 | 686-PUCO (7826)

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**A report by the Staff of the
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

PUCO Case No 16-1217-RR-RCP

**In the Matter of the Petition by the Mahoning County Engineer for an Exempt
Crossing Designation at Mahoning County, Duck Creek Rd/CR 53, DOT# 502475E**

June 30, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Rail Division

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) works with local highway authorities and communities to provide safety for the citizens of Ohio at highway-railroad grade crossings.

The PUCO has the statutory authority to regulate and promote the welfare and safety of railroad employees and the traveling public pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4905.471; and

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4907.474 and 4907.475. The sections set forth a variety of factors to be considered by the Commission in determining whether there is a demonstrable need for any public grade crossing to exist and whether any such crossing could be closed to vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, or both and the travel over the grade crossing diverted to other grade crossings.

The PUCO is responsible for evaluating public highway-railroad grade crossings to determine the need for upgrading the warning devices and apportioning the cost thereof pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4907.471.

The PUCO has the authority under Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.63 (B) to declare a grade crossing exempt, whereby vehicles normally required to stop at a grade crossing under that title and Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, 392.10 would be able to proceed through the crossing without stopping.

The PUCO enforces all aspects of the Federal Railroad Administration regulations through inspections and evaluations of Ohio's public highway-railroad grade crossings.

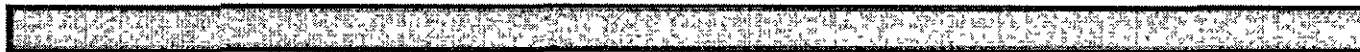
I. DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

The Mahoning County Engineer is the local highway authority with jurisdiction over Duck Creek Rd/CR 53, crossing at-grade with the Norfolk Southern Railway, and having DOT# 502475E.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On May 31, 2016, Patrick Gianetti, Mahoning County Engineer, filed in this docket a request for the grade crossing on Duck Creek Rd/CR 53, DOT# 502475E, to be designated "exempt" under 4511.63 Ohio Revised Code.

III. Database photos



Site Information	
AARDOT:	502481H
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	MAH029
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Dec 21 2012 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Norfolk Southern Corp
Division:	PITTSBURGH
Sub-Division:	402425
Branch/Line Name:	LORDSTOWN SEC
Milepost:	22.05
Railroad ID:	
Nearest Time Table Station:	N JACKSON
Parent RR Company:	NS
Crossing Owner:	NS
Location and Classification Information	
County:	MAHONING

(Nearest) City:	NORTH JACKSON
Street:	PALMYRA RD
Highway and SLM:	CR136
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	50
ODOT NLF ID:	CMAHCR00136**C
Latitude:	41.0621307
Longitude:	-80.8831652
Elevation (ft):	1071.49
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	MAHONING COUNTY
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Residential
Crossing Angle:	30-59 Degrees
Main Tracks:	1
Other Tracks:	0
Lanes:	2
Warning Devices	
Crossbucks, Standard:	0
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	2
Lights, Mast Mounted:	0
Lights, Cantilevered:	0
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	0
Traffic Information	
Day Thru Trains:	0

Day Switching Trains:	0
Night Thru Trains:	0
Night Switch Trains:	0
Date of Train Count:	Mar 2 2011 12:00AM
Highway AADT:	1579
Date of AADT:	2011

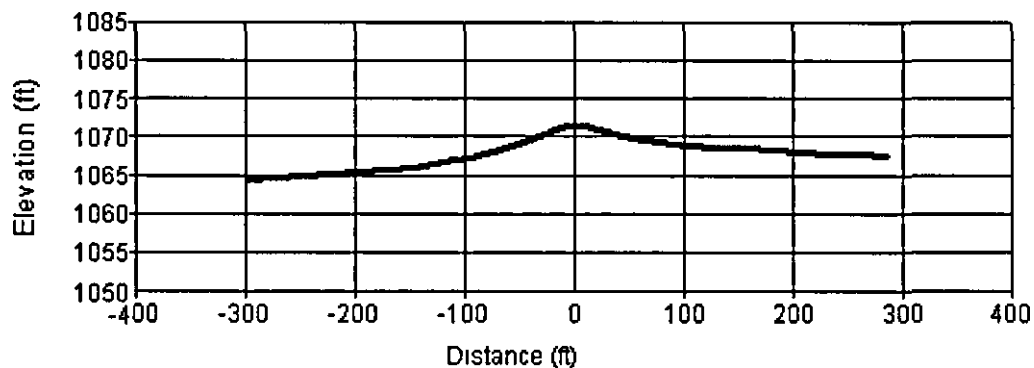
Highway Information

Distance to Nearest Intersection:	35
Type of Intersection:	Residential Drive
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	0

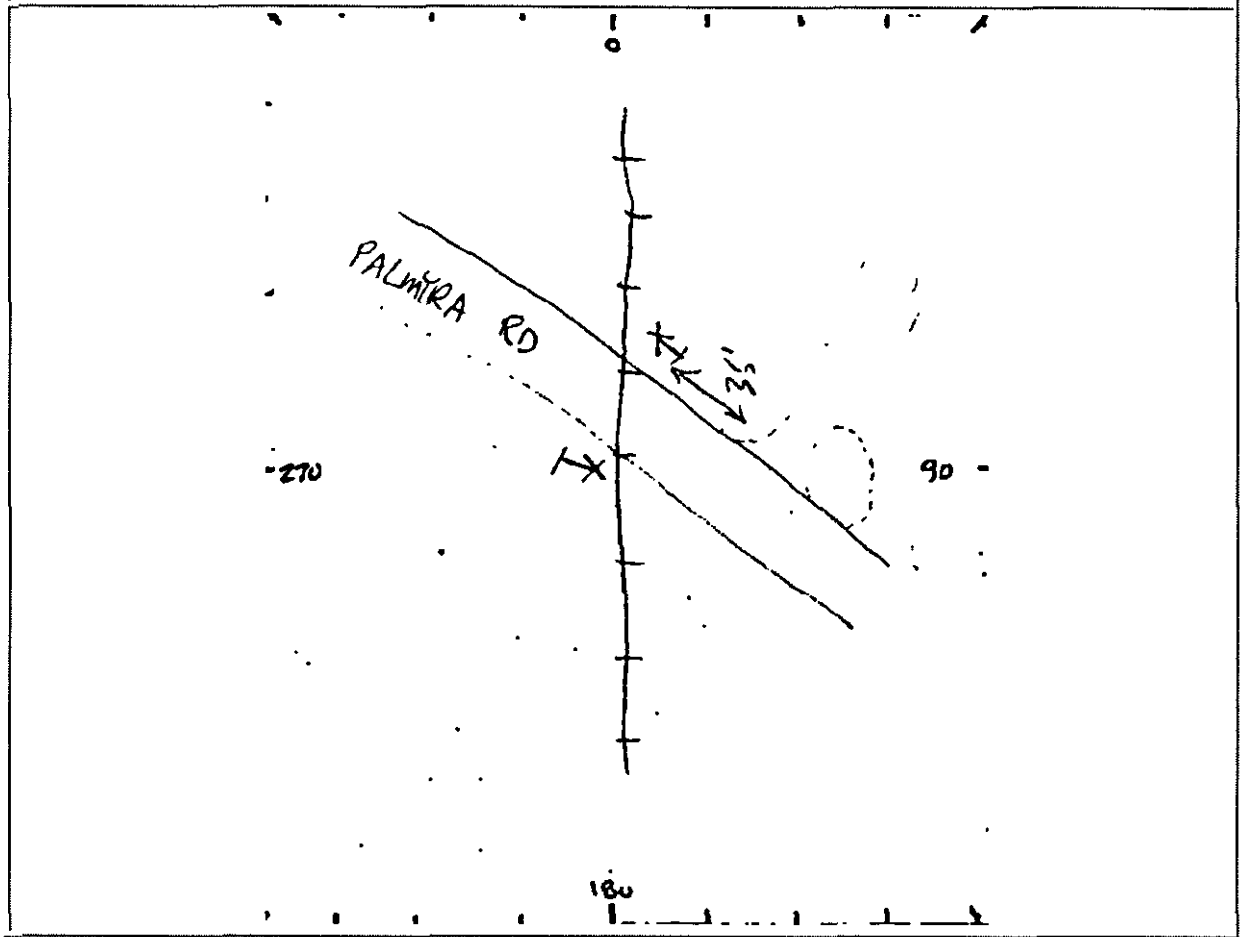
Site Comments

No comments.

Standard Profile



Site Sketch



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
RAIL DIVISION**

Date of Assignment: June 16, 2016

Date of Inspection: June 17, 2016

Subject: 16-1217-RR-RCP—Petition for Exemption, Duck Creek Rd.,
Ellsworth, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Railway,
Pittsburgh Div., Lordstown Secondary.

DOT No: 502475E

FINDINGS

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on June 17, 2016. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway-rail grade crossing which is located in Ellsworth. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west and is intersected by a set of tracks owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway (NS). The tracks intersect the roadway at M. P. 24.87 and run north and south. The crossing consists of one main track which currently has standard crossbucks and yield signs as a passive highway-rail grade crossing warning system. The roadway has a posted highway speed of 45 mph., and has been paved over with asphalt. The north and south approaches have advance warning signs and pavement markings.

The Crossing has a moderate to low volume of traffic with Ellsworth Schools City District having to stop on route at this crossing at least a couple times a day with "Flashing lights, stop and listen" to comply with Ohio Revised Code: 4511.63

On June 28, 2016 I spoke with Mr. Mike Seatter, NS Assistant Division Engineer. I advised him of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroad train traffic over the line. Mr. Seatter advised me they have one customer on the line at M. P. 20 and the rail traffic does not go past this Mile Post. Mr. Seatter advised me that the railline is out service and crossings to the north do not have train service over them.

SUMMARY

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the roadway. The road is used by both school buses, County and multiple hazardous material vehicles and the exemption would help reduce the possibility of rear end collisions due to vehicles being required to stop.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption over the highway rail grade crossing.

Randy Johr
PUCO Rail Inspector
Date: June 28, 2016

CC: Complainant
Additional cc's

V. Ohio's Rail Grade Crossing Programs

Ohio is a national leader in terms of railroad operations. Ohio is home to nearly 40 railroads that operate thousands of trains in Ohio every day over approximately 5,200 miles of track and 5,900 public grade crossings. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the state agency with regulatory authority over railroads operating in Ohio. The Commission works in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure that rail operations and infrastructure are safe and in compliance with federal and state regulations.

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Questions or Concerns?

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John R. Kasich, Governor
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

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**A report by the Staff of the
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

PUCO Case No 16-1365-RR-RCP

**In the Matter of the Petition by the Jackson Township Trustees for an Exempt
Crossing Designation at Mahoning County, Blott Rd/TR 160, DOT# 544985Y**

June 30, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Rail Division

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) works with local highway authorities and communities to provide safety for the citizens of Ohio at highway-railroad grade crossings.

The PUCO has the statutory authority to regulate and promote the welfare and safety of railroad employees and the traveling public pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4905.471; and

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4907.474 and 4907.475. The sections set forth a variety of factors to be considered by the Commission in determining whether there is a demonstrable need for any public grade crossing to exist and whether any such crossing could be closed to vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, or both and the travel over the grade crossing diverted to other grade crossings.

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The PUCO has the authority under Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.63 (B) to declare a grade crossing exempt, whereby vehicles normally required to stop at a grade crossing under that title and Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, 392.10 would be able to proceed through the crossing without stopping.

The PUCO enforces all aspects of the Federal Railroad Administration regulations through inspections and evaluations of Ohio's public highway-railroad grade crossings.

I. DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

The Jackson Township Trustees are the local highway authority with jurisdiction over Blott Rd/TR 160, crossing at-grade with the Norfolk Southern Railway, and having DOT# 544985Y.

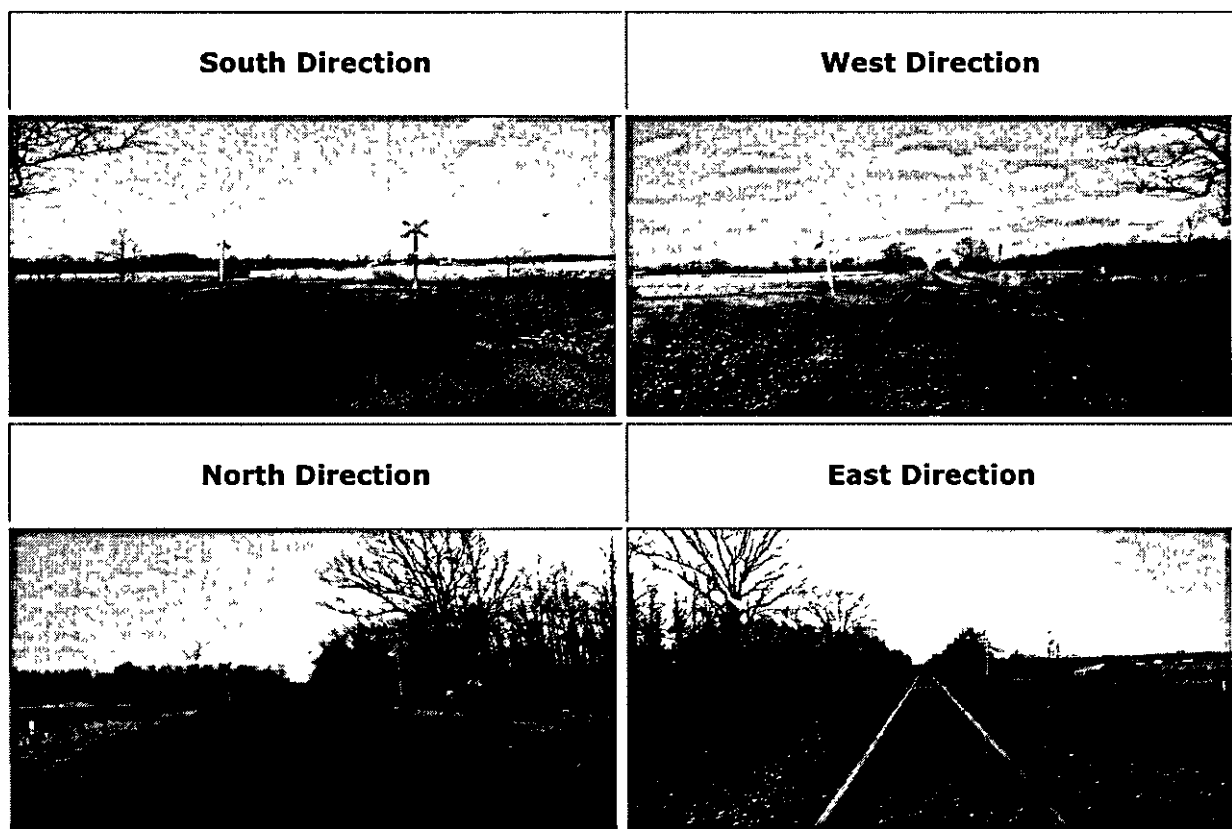
II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On June 13, 2016, Alan Hemphill, Chairman of the Jackson Township Trustees, filed in this docket a request for the grade crossing on Blott Rd/TR 160, DOT# 544985Y, to be designated "exempt" under 4511.63 Ohio Revised Code.

III. Database photos



Public Utilities Commission of Ohio



Site Information	
AARDOT:	544985Y
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field

Survey Site ID:	MAH031
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Sep 7 2007 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Norfolk Southern Corp
Division:	
Sub-Division:	402425
Branch/Line Name:	LORDSTOWN SEC
Milepost:	21.04
Railroad ID:	
Nearest Time Table Station:	NORTH JACKSON
Parent RR Company:	NS
Crossing Owner:	NS
Location and Classification Information	
County:	MAHONING
(Nearest) City:	NORTH JACKSON
Street:	BLOTT RD
Highway and SLM:	TR160
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	50
ODOT NLF ID:	TMAHTR00160**C
Latitude:	41.07655
Longitude:	-80.88068
Elevation (ft):	1067.66
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	

LHA:	JACKSON TWP
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Open Space
Crossing Angle:	60-90 Degrees
Main Tracks:	1
Other Tracks:	0
Lanes:	2

Warning Devices

Crossbucks, Standard:	2
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	0
Lights, Mast Mounted:	0
Lights, Cantilevered:	0
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	0

Traffic Information

Day Thru Trains:	2
Day Switching Trains:	2
Night Thru Trains:	2
Night Switch Trains:	0
Date of Train Count:	
Highway AADT:	141
Date of AADT:	2014

Highway Information

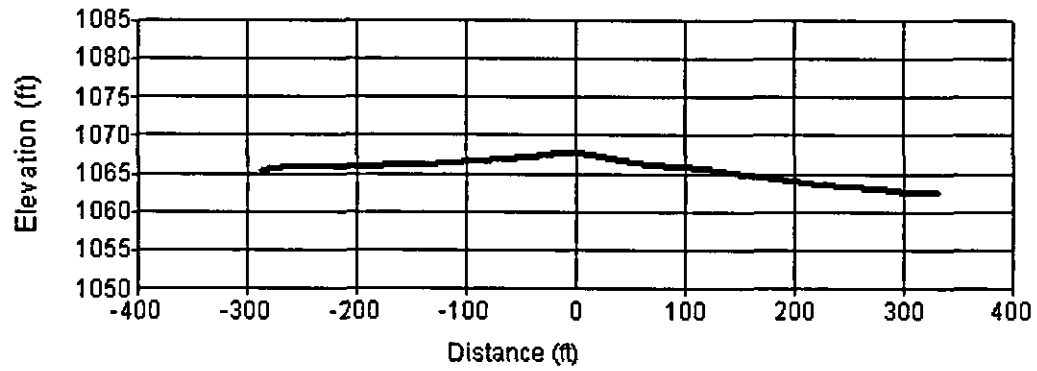
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	90
Type of Intersection:	Unknown
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	0

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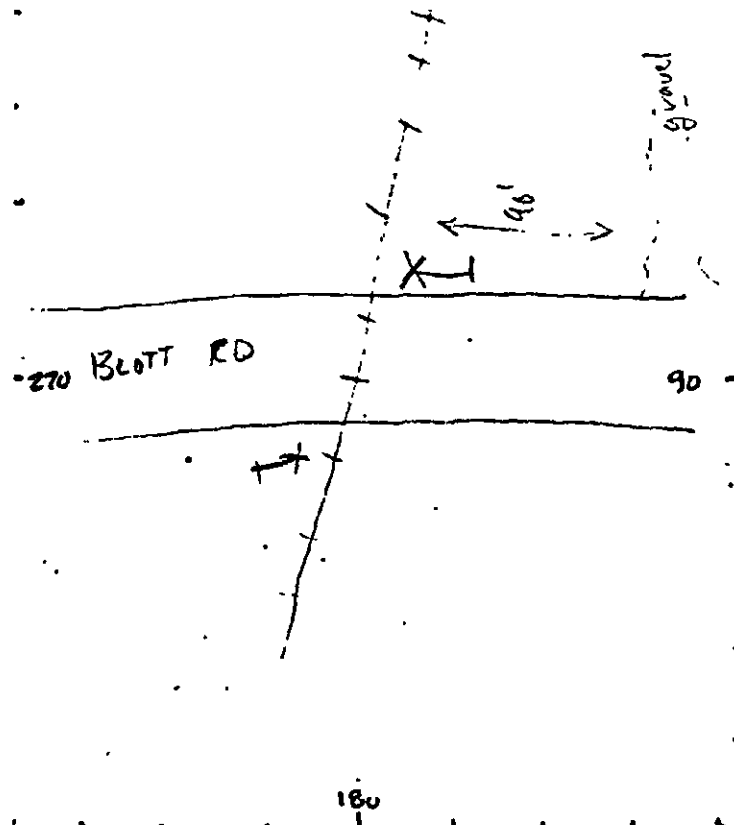
Site Comments

No comments.

Standard Profile



Site Sketch



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
RAIL DIVISION**

Date of Assignment: June 16, 2016

Date of Inspection: June 17, 2016

Subject: 16-1365-RR-RCP: Petition for Exemption, Blott Rd., Jackson Township, Norfolk Southern Railway, Pittsburgh Division, Lordstown Secondary.)

DOT No: 544985Y

FINDINGS

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on June 17, 2016. The Jackson Township Trustees are seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway-rail grade crossing which is located in Ellsworth. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west and is intersected by railroad tracks owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway (NS). The tracks intersect the roadway at M. P. 21.05 and run north and south. The crossing consists of one main track which currently has standard crossbucks and yield signs as a passive highway-rail grade crossing warning system. The roadway has a posted highway speed of 45 mph., and has been paved over with asphalt. The north and south approaches have advance warning signs and pavement markings.

The crossing has a moderate to low volume of traffic with Ellsworth Schools City District having to stop on route at this crossing at least a couple times a day with "Flashing lights, stop and listen" to comply with Ohio Revised Code: 4511.

On June 28, 2016 I spoke with Mr. Mike Seatter, NS Assistant Division Engineer. I advised him of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroad train traffic over the line. Mr. Seatter advised me they have one customer on the line at M. P. 20 and the rail traffic does not go past this Mile Post. Mr. Seatter advised me that the railline is out service and crossings to the north do not have train service over them.

SUMMARY

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the roadway. The County route is used by both school buses, County and multiple hazardous material vehicles and the exemption would help reduce the possibility of rear end collisions on a County route over a grade crossing with no train traffic.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption over the highway rail grade crossing.

Randy Johr
PUCO Rail Inspector
Date: June 29, 2016

CC: Complainant
Additional cc's

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The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
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