

Memo

To: Docketing Division

From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division

Cc: PUCO Legal Department

Date: 3/16/17

Re: PUCO Case No. 16-523-RR-STP- In the Matter of a Request for Upgrades at Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Grade Crossing on Main Street/CR 5 (DOT#472-918D) in Harrison County, Hopedale, Ohio and Hedge Avenue/TR 31 (DOT#472-914B) in Jefferson County, Creston, Ohio.

On March 3, 2016, Commission Staff (PUCO) and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company (WE) entered into a stipulation agreement (attached) whereby upgraded warning devices would be installed at Main Street (DOT# 472-918D) and Hedge Avenue (DOT#472-914B).

On April 14, 2016, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the project, requiring plans and estimates by July 14, 2016 and ordering project completion by April 14, 2017.

On July 22, 2016 and December 14, 2016, WE filed with the Rail Division plans and estimates for the projects.

The plans and estimates submitted by WE have been reviewed and authorization is recommended. (See attached documentation.)



Public Utilities Commission

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

Commissioners

Lynn Slaby
M. Beth Trombold
Thomas W. Johnson
Lawrence K. Friedeman

March 16, 2017

Mr. Tim Andrews
Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company
Signals & Communications Supervisor
100 E. First Street
Brewster, Ohio 44613

Re: WE Grade Crossing,
Hedge Avenue/TR 31 (DOT#472-914B)
Main Street/CR5 (DOT#472-918D)

Mr. Andrews:

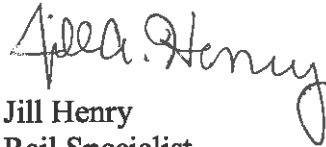
Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad (WE) is now authorized to proceed with field construction for the above referenced project. This authorization is contingent upon accepting the following:

- 1) WE will make any adjustments to the plans noted in the field report docketed March 16, 2017 (Attached).
- 2) WE will provide PUCO Staff with the final estimates and the material package itemization once bidding for the material package is complete.
- 3) WE will furnish e-mail, fax, or phone notification five (5) working days prior to the date work will start at the project site. Notification to be made to Jill Henry, PUCO, at E-MAIL jill.henry@puc.state.oh.us, FAX 614-995-5535, or PHONE 614-466-0435.
- 4) WE will arrange for utilities to be relocated and/or dropped (as soon as possible) at the project site through the applicable utility company.
- 5) WE will arrange for utilities to be located at the project site by the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) prior to any construction activities at the site. Utilities that are not participating members of the OUPS service must be contacted directly by WE.
- 6) WE's project foreman will notify the PUCO Railroad Inspector of any changes in the scope of work, cost overruns, material changes, etc. which are not included in the approved plan and estimates and secure approval of same before the work is performed.
- 7) WE will furnish three (3) copies of each partial bill to the PUCO.

- 8) WE will furnish three (3) copies of the final-inclusive bill to PUCO stating that exact dates of starting and completing work, the initial and final dates of construction and location where the accounts may be audited.
- 9) WE will furnish as-built detailed circuit plans directly to the PUCO.
- 10) WE is to schedule and complete the subject project by April 14, 2017. If any extraordinary circumstances unique to this project occur, please notify the Commission's rail staff immediately.

Thank you for you cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Henry".

Jill Henry
Rail Specialist
PUCO Rail Division

Enclosure

cc: File

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

Date of Assignment: December 14, 2016

Subject: Plans and estimates review for active warning devices at Hedge Avenue (DOT#472-914B) & Main Street/CR 5 (DOT#472-918D), Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, Harrison and Jefferson Counties.

DOT #: 472-914B & 472-918D

FINDINGS

On December 14, 2016, the complete plans and estimates for the above mentioned crossings were received from Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway. They were reviewed by Jill Henry, PUCO Rail Specialist, and Shawn Zurfley, FRA/PUCO Field Investigator.

Hedge Avenue/TR 31

Hedge Avenue is a lightly traveled narrow roadway traveling Northeast/Southwest and intersecting a single track of WE traveling Northwest/Southeast. Existing warning devices include stop signs and crossbucks.

Main Street/CR 5

Main Street is a heavily traveled two lane roadway traveling Northeast/Southwest and intersecting a single track of WE traveling Northwest/Southeast. Existing warning devices include flashing lights and crossbucks.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We reviewed the plans and estimates for both crossings. WE will install a complete new light and gate system at Main Street and will install a light and gate system at Hedge Avenue using new and refurbished materials.

Staff asked the following questions concerning the Hedge Avenue plans and estimates:

- 1) Could we move the bungalow to the NW quadrant?

Response: This quadrant will have to switch bungalows already so we are trying not to over fill this area. There will be vehicles in this drive daily so we are trying to keep obstructions out of the way.

Staff Additional Question: Would it be possible to move the equipment bungalow in the SE Quadrant 25' from the rail and 50' from the roadway?

Response: We can put the house in the NW quad now. We think that would work best for AC at this location now since we have a service panel in this quadrant for the switch heaters. Initially we were trying to keep it away from vehicles using that lane but we are going to gate off that lane.

- 2) The site plans need to show the distance of the gate mechanisms and the equipment bungalow to the tracks and roadway. Please provide an updated site plan.

Response: Information provided

Staff asked the following questions concerning the Main Street plans and estimates:

- 1) Could we move the equipment bungalow further from the rails to 25'?

1) Response: Yes

The plans and estimates appear to be fundamentally correct. Construction authorization is granted for this project with the following conditions:

For Hedge Avenue/TR 31:

- 1) The equipment bungalow placement should be in the NW quadrant and needs to be placed further back than 15' as indicated on the plans. The OMUTCD recommends a 25' placement. **If these conditions cannot be met onsite then contact should be made to the PUCO for clarification.**

For Main Street/CR 5:

- 1) The house placement needs to be placed further back than 15' as indicated on the plans. The OMUTCD recommends a 25' placement. **If these conditions cannot be met onsite then contact should be made to the PUCO for clarification.**

Jill Henry
PUCO Rail Specialist
Date: March 16, 2017

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Case No(s). 16-0523-RR-STP

Summary: Memorandum In the Matter of Construction Authorization for Upgrades at Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Grade Crossing on Main Street/CR 5 (DOT#472-918D) in Harrison County, Hopedale, Ohio and Hedge Avenue/TR 31 (DOT#472-914B) in Jefferson County, Creston, Ohio. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of PUCO/Rail Division