

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

In the Matter of an Exemption Request at the Grade Crossing at
Wolf Run Road/CR 75 (DOT#503-286L), in Jefferson County, Ohio.
Case Number 17-592-RR-RCP

April 25, 2017

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 (ORC) §4905.471.

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to ORC §§4907.474 and 4907.475. These 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 and/or pedestrian traffic 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 ORC §4907.471.

The PUCO has the authority under ORC §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.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

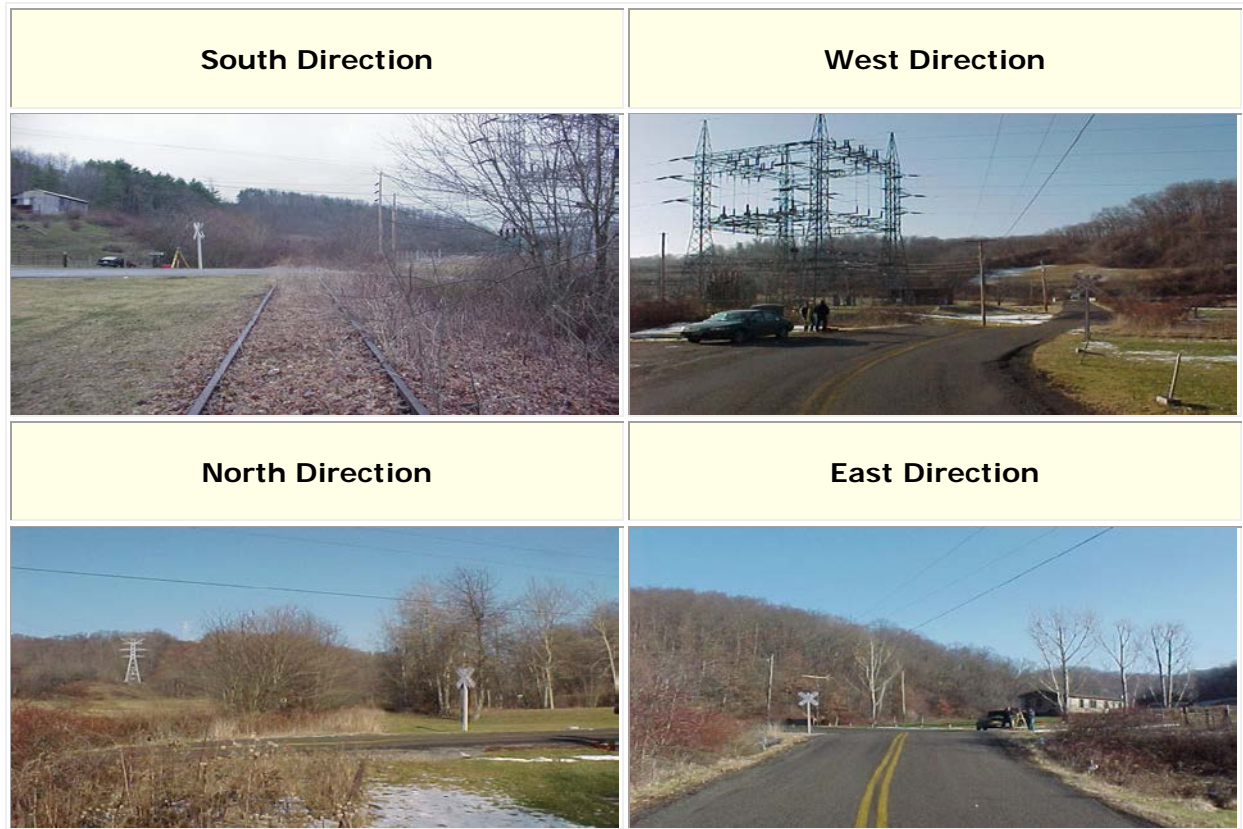
The Jefferson County Engineer, is the local highway authority with jurisdiction over the Wolf Run Road/CR 75 grade crossing that is the subject of this petition for exemption under 45 ORC 4511.63.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Jefferson County Engineer has petitioned for an exemption from school buses and hazardous material transporters stopping at the Wolf Run Road/CR 75 (DOT#503-286L) grade crossing located just south of CR 275 in Jefferson County, Ohio.

According to the Jefferson County Engineer, the rail lines are no longer in use and the tracks are overgrown. They indicate in the petition that by granting an exemption, no vehicles would be required to stop and this would make the roadway safer.

This crossing is currently owned and maintained by the Ohi-Rail Corporation. Ohi-Rail confirmed that the crossing has no train traffic.



Site Information	
AARDOT:	503286L
AARDOT Source:	Railroad
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Railroad
Survey Site ID:	JEF509
Init. Agency for Change:	Railroad
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Jun 27 2011 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	OHI-RAIL Corp
Division:	
Sub-Division:	

Branch/Line Name:	
Milepost:	1.75
Railroad ID:	
Nearest Time Table Station:	BERGHOLZ
Parent RR Company:	OHIC
Crossing Owner:	OHIC
Location and Classification Information	
County:	JEFFERSON
(Nearest) City:	BERGHOLZ
Street:	WOLF RUN RD
Highway and SLM:	CR75
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	41
ODOT NLF ID:	CJEFCR00075**C
Latitude:	40.47966
Longitude:	-80.88999
Elevation (ft):	963.6097
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	JEFFERSON COUNTY
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Open Space
Crossing Angle:	60-90 Degrees
Main Tracks:	1
Other Tracks:	0
Lanes:	2
Warning Devices	
Crossbucks, Standard:	1

Crossbucks, Buckeye:	0
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:	4/11/17
Highway AADT:	26
Date of AADT:	2012

Highway Information	
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	50
Type of Intersection:	Residential Drive
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	0

Site Comments	
No comments.	

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

Date of Assignment: April 6, 2017

Date of Inspection: April 11, 2017

Subject: 17-592-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Wolf Run Road, Amsterdam,
Jefferson County, Ohi – Rail Corporation.

DOT #: 503-286L

FINDINGS

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 11, 2017. The Jefferson 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 near Amsterdam. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels southwest and northeast with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Ohi-Rail and runs southeast and northwest. The crossing has standard crossbucks with yield signs. The rail through the crossing has been paved over.

April 18, 2017, I sent an email to Ohi-Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future. They have no objections to making the crossing exempt.

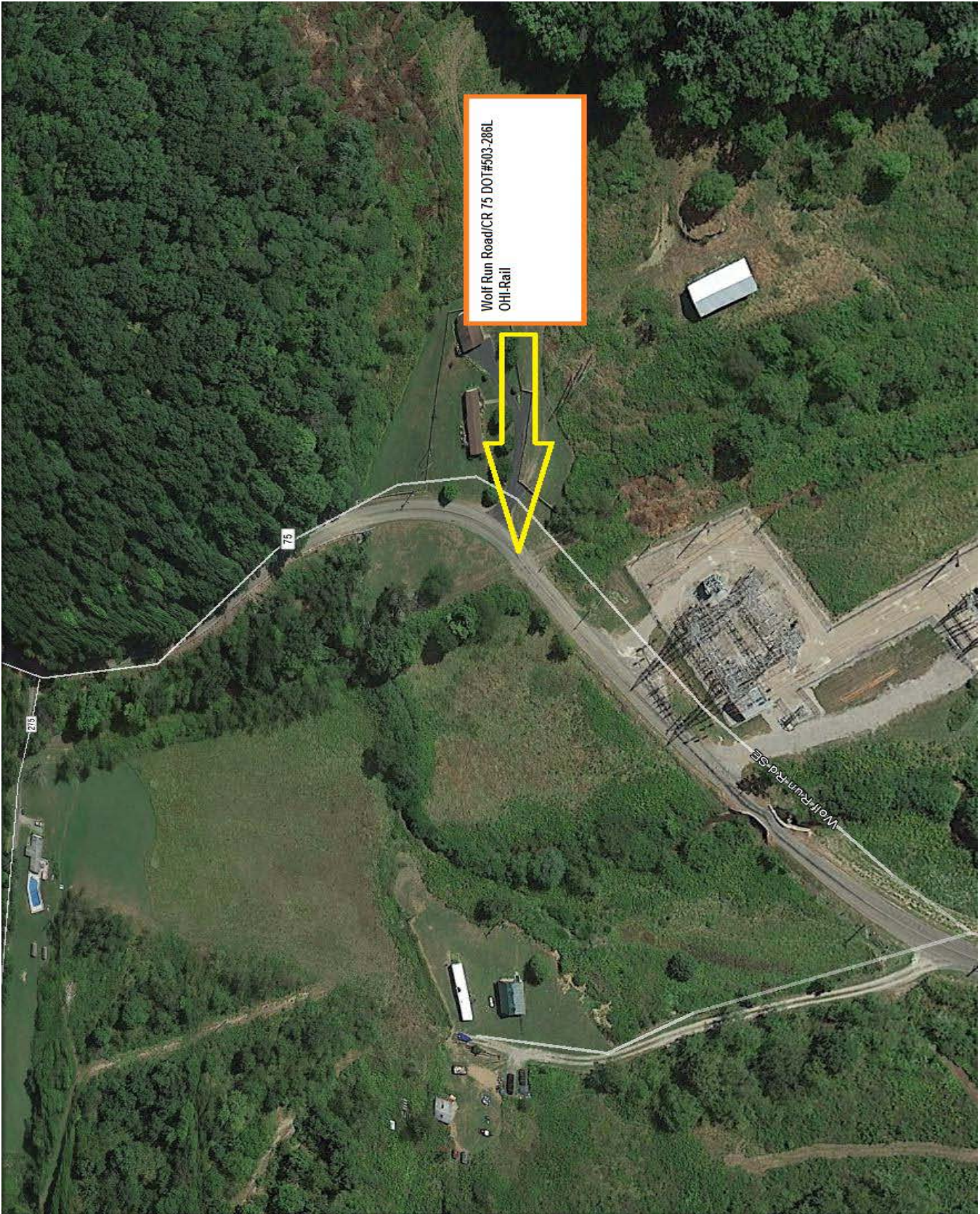
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future therefore the railroad has no objections to the request to the exemption request.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

Shawn Zurfley
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector
Date: April 19, 2017



CR 75/ Wolf Run Road Jefferson County, Ohio DOT#503-286L



CR 75/Wolf Run
Road DOT#
503-286L
Crossing
looking
Southwest.



CR 75/Wolf Run
Road DOT#
503-286L
Crossing
looking
Northwest.

CR 75/Wolf Run Road
DOT# 503-286L
Crossing looking
Southeast.



CR 75/Wolf Run Road
DOT# 503-286L
Crossing looking
Northeast.



STAFF RECOMENDATIONS

PUCO Rail Staff recommends the following actions be taken:

- 1) Approve the exemption request for the crossing to prevent vehicles from stopping at the crossing, since no train traffic is on the tracks.
- 2) Require the operating railroad to place a derail device at the crossing to prohibit trains from entering the crossing.
- 3) Require the operating railroad to place a stop and flag order on the crossing if train movements begin over the crossing.
- 4) If train traffic begins at the crossing, require operating railroad to notify the Commission, so that the exemption status can be reviewed to verify if it should remain in place.
- 5) Require staff to conduct a follow-up inspection to verify that exemptions signs are posted and to update the rail database.

OTHER INFORMATION

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 5,300 miles of track and 5,800 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 obstructions, fencing and drainage concerns. Additionally, inspections are conducted on railroad equipment at rail yards and other facilities and they review safety concerns of both the PUCO and railroad employees.

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 15 years, the PUCO has participated in the installation of lights and gates at more than 1,900 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
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

4/25/2017 4:35:52 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-0592-RR-RCP

Summary: Staff Report Filed In the Matter of a Request by the Jefferson County Engineer's Office for an Exemption from the Requirement Under R.C. 4511.63 for School Buses and Hazardous Materials Vehicles to Stop at a Grade Crossing Located on CR 75 in Springfield Township, Jefferson County, Ohio. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of PUCO/ Rail Division