## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AUTHORIZATION OF RJ CORMAN RAILROAD TO INSTALL ACTIVE WARNING DEVICES AND A NEW CROSSING SURFACE IN ALLEN COUNTY.

**CASE NO. 17-682-RR-FED** 

#### **ENTRY**

Entered in the Journal on March 8, 2018

#### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the request of RJ Corman Railroad to extend to July 12, 2018, the deadline for installation of lights, gates, and a new crossing surface at the S. Copus Road/Township Road 146 grade crossing in Allen County, subject to the Commission's ongoing jurisdiction and oversight.

#### II. DISCUSSION

- {¶ 2} R.C. 4905.04 provides that the Commission has statutory authority to regulate and promote the welfare and safety of railroad employees and the traveling public.
- **{¶ 3}** R.C. 4907.471 provides that the Commission shall survey all grade crossings and establish a priority list to determine which grade crossings are in need of additional protective devices.
- {¶ 4} R.C. 4907.476 provides that where the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) enters into contracts and agreements for grade crossing protective device projects, the Commission shall work with and through the department. Federal funding for such projects is provided through the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), which is an independent agency of the state within ODOT, established in accordance with R.C. 4981.02.

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{¶ 5} RJ Corman Railroad (RJC) is a railroad as defined in R.C. 4907.02 and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under R.C. 4905.04.

- {¶ 6} On April 12, 2017, the Commission issued a Finding and Order approving the installation by RJC of lights, gates, and a new crossing surface at the S. Copus Road/Township Road 146 grade crossing (DOT#261647S), located in Allen County. The Commission ordered completion of the project by January 12, 2018.
- {¶ 7} On December 8, 2017, RJC filed a letter requesting an additional six months, until July 12, 2018, to finish the project. RJC states that materials necessary for the project are not expected to be ready for construction until after the January 12, 2018 project deadline. RJC adds that temperatures will need to be above freezing to perform the necessary track welds and install underground signal cable and conduit.
- {¶ 8} Staff filed a memo on December 11, 2017, indicating that ORDC supports the extension request. Staff recommends that the Commission grant the request.
- {¶ 9} Upon review, the Commission finds that RJC should be granted an extension of time until July 12, 2018, to complete the project.

### III. ORDER

- $\{\P 10\}$  It is, therefore,
- $\P$  11} ORDERED, That RJC be granted an extension of time to July 12, 2018, to complete the project. It is, further,
- $\P$  12} ORDERED, That, unless otherwise authorized, RJC complete the project by July 12, 2018. It is, further,
- {¶ 13} ORDERED, That when Staff or ORDC makes its final inspection and finds that the project is completed, Staff file a memorandum in this docket indicating that the project is completed. It is, further,

**{¶ 14}** ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon ORDC, RJC, Shawnee Township Trustees, American Electric Power, and all interested persons of record.

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

M. Beth-Trombold

Lawrence K. Priedeman

Thomas W. Johnson

Daniel R. Conway

JML/sc

Entered in the Journal

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Barcy F. McNeal Secretary