



a Genesee & Wyoming Company

April 26, 2019

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

SUBJ: DOT 532757C, Request for downgrade

This letter is to petition the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to authorize the downgrade of a bell only crossing located at Main St (Crossing DOT 532757C) in Middlepoint, Van Wert County, Ohio.

The Chicago Fort Wayne & Eastern Railroad (CFER) is requesting permanent removal of the bell only equipment at this crossing that is currently protected with cross bucks and stop signs. Recently the crossing case at this location was hit by a garbage truck where the backside peeled open from the incident. This crossing is operated by a DC circuit, and has excessive approach lengths. This crossing is one of three (3) crossings that are tied together through DC circuits and AFTAC islands. If the Railroad can get Main St approved for downgrade, the CFER will begin work to make necessary adjustments to thee two adjacent crossings in town.

Furthermore, the crossing is the furthest east crossing in town and is more less a side street, not the main route through town. The traffic at this crossing in Middlepoint has a very minimal car count per day. Rail movements at this crossing are on average of four (4) trains per day. The Railroad has been in contact with the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) about this crossing. A representative from ORDC has visited the location to conduct a site visit as well as discuss alternatives to resolve the downgrade of the bell only crossing. The Railroad is willing to pay for the removal of the safety device once granted approval by the PUCO. Your consideration for this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Frank
AVP Engineering
Midwest Region Railroads*
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in

Case No(s). 19-1090-RR-RCP

Summary: Application In the Matter of an Exemption Request for the Chicago Ft. Wayne and Eastern Railroad (CFE) Main Street (DOT# 532-757C) Grade Crossing in Middle Point, Van Wert County, Ohio. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of Chicago Ft. Wayne & Eastern