

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR
EXEMPTION OF RAIL CROSSINGS
IN MINSTER, OHIO

CASE #22-280-RR-RCP

- - -

The following PUBLIC HEARING was held
before Administrative Law Judge Jesse Davis.

- - -

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 28, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Place: St. Henry Consolidated Local
Schools
391 East Columbus Street
Media Room
St. Henry, Ohio 45883

Reporter: Susan E. Ingraham, RPR,

Midwest Reporting Service
419-733-0987
www.midwestreportingservice.com

I N D E X

Page

Don Harrod	4
Andy Roetgerman	7

- - -

September 28, 2022

2:00 p.m.

JUDGE DAVIS: We're on the record.

Good afternoon, everyone.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has set for public hearing at this time and place, Case No. 22-280-RR-RCP, which is captioned in the Matter of Requests by the Department of Transportation and the Village of Minster for exemptions from stopping for school buses and hazardous materials vehicles for crossings in Auglaize County, Ohio.

My name is Jesse Davis. I'm the attorney examiner assigned by the Commission to hear this case.

The purpose of this hearing today is to receive public comments about the requests being made by the Department of Transportation and the Village of Minster to designate multiple crossings as exempt.

In their respective petitions to designate crossings as exempt, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Village of Minster state that the crossings they request be exempted are either no longer utilized by the rail company or

1 see extremely low train traffic and that for all
2 crossings requested, making them exempt would
3 increase safety to school buses and hazmat
4 vehicles by eliminating their need to stop at the
5 crossing.

6 Those in attendance, if you wish to
7 testify, your testimony will be considered as part
8 of the official record in the case and it will be
9 reviewed by the Commission before making a final
10 decision.

11 I'm going to start by calling each
12 witness, swearing them in. The court reporter
13 will record your statement, so please speak
14 plainly and clearly so she can record everything.

15 After I swear you in, just spell and
16 state your name for the record and your work
17 address and you can testify to why it should be
18 granted or not.

19 So we are going to start with Mr.
20 Harrod.

21 - - -

22 DON HARROD,

23 Being first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
24 follows:

25 - - -

1 JUDGE DAVIS: Please state and spell
2 your name for the record.

3 MR. HARROD: Donald Harrod,
4 D-O-N-A-L-D, H-A-R-R-O-D. I'm the Village
5 Administrator for Minster, Ohio, and the address
6 is 5 West Fourth Street, Minster, Ohio, 45865.

7 JUDGE DAVIS: Thank you. Go ahead.

8 MR. HARROD: We just have requested
9 that the tracks that are inside the Village
10 limits, along with ODOT's request for the track
11 that is on State Route 119 to be exempt from
12 crossings for school buses and hazmat vehicles.

13 RJ Corman has not utilized the
14 railroad tracks in three to four years with any
15 train traffic whatsoever. And for the last five
16 or six years, it's been maybe one train every
17 month or so, if that, that has used the tracks.

18 And there's no anticipation of RJ
19 Corman using those tracks again because of the
20 maintenance on the tracks that needs to be done to
21 bring them up back up to where they can be used,
22 so, given that, we are just requesting that they
23 be exempt for school buses and hazmat vehicles.

24 There's no really no -- there's
25 safety issues with stopping, you know, with school

1 buses having to stop to go across with no train
2 traffic coming. It's more of a hazard for them
3 stopping and pedestrians or vehicles, you know,
4 having to stop for them than it is for trains
5 going across because there is none, so that's what
6 we are requesting.

7 JUDGE DAVIS: Thank you very much.
8 Before you finish your testimony,
9 just for the sake of clarity in the record and to
10 have this done through a question, the DOT numbers
11 for these, if I can list these for you, can you
12 affirm that they are correct.

13 So this would be at State Route 119,
14 the DOT number is 476987A.

15 MR. HARROD: Correct.

16 JUDGE DAVIS: And then South Ohio
17 Street, that is number 919855S?

18 MR. HARROD: Yes.

19 JUDGE DAVIS: And then West Sixth
20 Street, which is 476989N?

21 MR. HARROD: Yes.

22 JUDGE DAVIS: West Seventh Street,
23 which is 476988G?

24 MR. HARROD: Yes.

25 JUDGE DAVIS: And West Fourth Street,

1 which is 919854K?

2 MR. HARROD: Yes.

3 JUDGE DAVIS: Just for the sake of
4 clarity in the record, I thought that would be
5 prudent to list.

6 Thank you very much for testifying.

7 So our next witness will be Mr.

8 Roetgerman.

9 - - -

10 ANDY ROETGERMAN,

11 Being first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as

12 follows:

13 - - -

14 JUDGE DAVIS: Please state and spell
15 your name for the record.

16 MR. ROETGERMAN: Andrew Roetgerman,
17 A-N-D-R-E-W, R-O-E-T-G-E-R-M-A-N. Minster Local
18 Schools, Transportation Coordinator, Facilities
19 Manager, 50 East Seventh Street, Minster, Ohio,
20 45865.

21 JUDGE DAVIS: Thank you. You can go
22 ahead.

23 MR. ROETGERMAN: I agree with what
24 Don stated, too. I know three to four years it
25 has not ran and I think it would be a good

1 opportunity to continue that flow in not having
2 those buses stop or the hazardous materials stop.

3 I know that the tracks are in some
4 pretty rough shape and repairing them probably
5 isn't even going to happen.

6 JUDGE DAVIS: Thank you very much.

7 Thank you for your testimony, both of
8 you.

9 We've reached the end of the
10 witnesses who are here to testify today. Thank
11 you all for attending.

12 The Commission thanks St. Henry
13 Consolidated Local Schools for allowing use of
14 their facilities today.

15 With that, we are adjourned.

16 (Thereupon, the hearing adjourned at
17 2:07 p.m.)

18 - - -
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan E. Ingraham, Registered
Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for
the State of Ohio, duly appointed therein, do
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
complete transcript as transcribed by me of the
proceedings conducted in that hearing on September
28, 2022, and I do further certify that I was
personally present during all of the proceedings
so transcribed.

Susan E. Ingraham
Registered Professional Reporter

My Commission Expires: September 1, 2025.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

9/30/2022 12:35:18 PM

in

Case No(s). 22-0280-RR-RCP

Summary: Transcript for public hearing held before Administrative Law Judge
Jesse Davis September 28, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Henry Consolidated Local
Schools electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M. Hunter on behalf of Susan E.
Ingraham, Midwest Reporting Service