

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.

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Date and Time: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

1:00 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  
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February 7, 2023

1:00 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 to be exempted, 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

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

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, you'll be asked  
16 to spell and state your name for the record and  
17 your work address and you can testify to why it  
18 should be 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: Don Harrod, D-O-N,  
4 H-A-R-R-O-D.

5 JUDGE DAVIS: Your work address?

6 MR. HARROD: 58 West Fourth Street,  
7 Minster, Ohio.

8 JUDGE DAVIS: Please go ahead with  
9 your testimony.

10 MR. HARROD: The railroad tracks have  
11 been embargoed by RJ Coreman for more probably  
12 three or four years, so there has been no train  
13 traffic on those rail crossings.

14 It just seems more of a safety issue  
15 of having traffic stop, school buses stop with no  
16 trains going down the tracks. So we see it more  
17 as a benefit, safety benefit to not have them  
18 stopping there, waiting on a train that's never  
19 going to show up.

20 It just seems that most people are  
21 used to trains not being on there, so having them  
22 stop just creates more of a safety hazard for us.

23 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

24 Just to cover something. I just want  
25 to make sure I have these correct for the sake of

1 the record.

2 The DOT numbers for these crossings,  
3 do you happen to have those?

4 MR. HARROD: I may have them.

5 Yeah.

6 JUDGE DAVIS: For the sake of just  
7 the completeness of the record and to make sure  
8 I'm retreading the same territory, would that be  
9 State Route 119, the DOT number is 476987A?

10 MR. HARROD: Yes.

11 JUDGE DAVIS: And then South Ohio  
12 Street, that is number 919855S?

13 MR. HARROD: Yes.

14 JUDGE DAVIS: And then West Sixth  
15 Street, which is 476989N?

16 MR. HARROD: Yes.

17 JUDGE DAVIS: West Seventh Street,  
18 which is 476988G?

19 MR. HARROD: Yes.

20 JUDGE DAVIS: And West Fourth Street,  
21 which is 919854K?

22 MR. HARROD: Yes.

23 JUDGE DAVIS: Thank you very much.

24 Does that conclude your testimony?

25 MR. HARROD: Yes.

- - -

JOSH MEYER,

Being first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

- - -

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

MR. MEYER: Josh Meyer, M-E-Y-E-R, and I'm the superintendent of the Minster Local School District, and the address is 50 East 7th Street, Minster, Ohio.

And as I previously stated, I support Mr. Harrod's testimony in regards to exempting these railroad tracks from the position of the school district.

JUDGE DAVIS: We've reached the end of the witnesses who are here to testify today. Thank you all for attending.

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

With that, we are adjourned.

(Thereupon, the hearing adjourned at 1:07 p.m.)

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**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 February 7, 2023, 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  
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Summary: Transcript for hearing held February 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Henry Consolidated Schools in the matter of the request for exemption of rail crossings in Minster, Ohio before Administrative Law Judge Jesse Davis electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M. Hunter on behalf of Susan E. Ingraham, Midwest Reporting Service