

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



January 26, 2011

File Number: G.10-12-007

John Stilley
Manager Public Projects
BNSF Railway Company
740 East Carnegie Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Avena Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1106.60, DOT No. 028787G, in San Joaquin County

Dear Mr. Stilley:

This refers to your letter dated December 16, 2010 and received by us on December 21, 2010 requesting authorization by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing in the County of San Joaquin (County). The crossing is identified as Avena Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1106.60, DOT No. 028787G.

The crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. At this location, Avena Road is a two-lane road running east/west with the track crossing the road at an approximate 45 degree angle. BNSF runs approximately 21 trains per day at a maximum speed of 55 mph and Amtrak runs approximately 12 trains per day at a maximum speed of 79 mph over the crossing.

The proposed alteration as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Adding a second track north of the existing track, with a pre-cast concrete panel surface;
- Widening the roadway from 20 feet to 24 feet;
- Relocating the existing Standard 9 warning devices 15 feet from the existing track and the proposed new track to accommodate the road widening and additional track;
- Extending the existing crossing surface with new pre-cast concrete panels to accommodate the roadway widening;
- Reconstructing the roadway approaches on both sides of the crossing;
- Installing new W10-1 advanced warning signs and "RXR" pavement markings;
- Installing amber reflectorized pavement markers 100 feet on each track approach at 20 foot intervals along the center line of the road and no pavement markers within 10 feet of the nearest track.

BNSF states in its GO88-B request letter that “The public will benefit from the proposed crossing modifications, as they will include improvements to the roadway approaching the crossing, which will create better sight distance to the crossing, along with widening of the roadway to 12 feet both directions.”

Staff has investigated the BNSF’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As BNSF and the County are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, the Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, BNSF shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/transportation/crossings/formg.htm> This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Firoz Vohra, County of San Joaquin