

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



March 27, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017020006
Silsbee Road
Unincorporated Imperial County

Mr. Alexander Popovici
Manager, Industry & Public Projects
Union Pacific Railroad
631 S. 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Silsbee Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 001BNC-142.30 and DOT Number 661954V in Unincorporated Imperial County

Dear Mr. Popovici:

This refers to your letter, received by us on February 24, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Silsbee Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) El Centro Subdivision track, in unincorporated Imperial County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001BNC-142.30 and DOT No. 661954V.

The crossing consists of one main track and a two-lane north-south roadway. The crossing is equipped with one Commission Standard 1-R (Crossbuck assembly with "YIELD" sign) warning device along the shoulder for northbound traffic and one Commission Standard 1-R along the shoulder for southbound traffic. UPRR operates approximately two freight trains daily, with a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour. As stated in the request letter, the average daily traffic at Silsbee Road is approximately 100 vehicles.

UPRR, in cooperation with the County, proposes the following alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Remove the existing railroad warning devices;
- Install one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device in the northwest quadrant at a minimum clearance of eight feet three inches from the edge of traveled way to the center of the warning device mast, including flashing light signal pairs facing in both directions along the roadway;
- Install one Commission Standard 9 warning device in the southeast quadrant at a minimum clearance of eight feet three inches from the edge of traveled way to the center of the warning device mast, including flashing light signal pairs facing in both directions along the roadway;
- Install two new street lights (road illumination), including one in the northeast quadrant and one in the southeast quadrant; and
- Replace the existing crossing surface with new pre-cast concrete panels.

Alexander Popovici
XREQ 2017020006, Silsbee Road
March 27, 2017
Page 2 of 2

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by UPRR and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and UPRR are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request received on February 24, 2017, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. UPRR and County must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of the CA MUTCD. UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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 RCEB, 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, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, UPRR shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Schumacher at kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov or (415) 310-9807.

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

C: (SENT VIA EMAIL)
John Gay, Imperial County