

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Docket No. PI-228
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to) ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION
investigate the blocking of)
railroad crossings in Hall)
County, Nebraska.)
) ENTERED: December 17, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens the above-captioned docket to investigate complaints regarding blocked railroad crossings in Hall County, Nebraska, with specific focus on the city of Grand Island.

Commission staff have received complaints from the public alleging hours-long blocking of several crossings in the following areas:

1. Rail track that runs adjacent to Nebraska Highway 2 from at least Engleman Road North to at least Broadwell Avenue North: BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) is alleged to block several crossings and allow trains to idle for several hours despite receiving complaints from nearby residents. The blockages also trigger the safety arm and signal, including lights and warning bells, for the duration that the train is parked in the crossing(s).
2. Section of track between Saint Paul Road and Sky Park Road, Airport Road East to past 4th Street East: Nebraska Central Railroad (NCRR) southbound trains block crossings at 4th Street East, 7th Street East, and Capital Avenue East while entering the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) line south of 4th Street East.

Each area raises safety concerns, as schools are nearby and block the crossings that children use to walk to and from school. Additionally, crossings have been blocked when first responders were called to residences that needed assistance. Finding alternate routes around blockages may add several extra minutes to response time.

Based on the initial information received, it has been determined that an investigatory docket should be opened and a hearing be scheduled in order to gather information from the