

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) PI-201
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, to investigate)
the blocking of railroad) ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION
crossings in Nebraska.)
)
) ENTERED: OCTOBER 6, 2015

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N S A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens the above-captioned investigation into the blocking of railroad crossings in Nebraska. In recent weeks, the Commission has been made aware of blockages occurring where the only road serving as the point of entry or exit into area housing developments or business locations cross a railroad track.

On September 29, 2015, the Commission opened an investigation into specific blockage reports in the eastern portion of Cass County, Nebraska.¹ However, the Commission is concerned that other areas in Nebraska may be experiencing similar railroad crossing blockages. Therefore, the Commission seeks information from railroad companies that run trains through and within Nebraska. The Commission requests assistance from railroad companies by providing the following information:

- a. Generally, how many single entry/exit railroad track crossings are located in Nebraska?
 - i. How often do trains stop on these railroad track crossings?
 - ii. Why?
 - iii. For how long?
- b. Has your company received complaints from the public regarding blockages of single entry/exit railroad crossings?
 - i. How have these complaints been addressed?
- c. Is your company involved in or aware of any efforts to alleviate the number of stops which may block the single

¹ PI-200 *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to investigate the blocking of railroad crossings in eastern Cass County, Nebraska*, entered September 29, 2015.

entry/exit railroad crossings in Nebraska? If so, please explain.

Any issues related to allowing traffic to cross these single entry/exit roads while a train is stopped at the crossing?

- d. Is your company aware of any efforts by other states to address railroad crossing blockages? If so, please describe.
- e. Is your company aware of any efforts on the federal level to address railroad crossing blockages? If so, please describe.

The Commission also seeks comment from other interested parties, especially those who live in and around where these crossings are located. The Commission would request comment on how often trains have been stopped on railroad crossings with a single entry or exit road in the past and how you may have been affected by the blockages.

The Commission seeks written comment regarding these questions. All interested parties should file written comments with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2015**. Those commenting shall file five (5) paper copies and one (1) electronic copy, which can be emailed to jamie.reyes@nebraska.gov. The Commission will determine what steps are appropriate after all comments are received and reviewed.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned investigation be, and is hereby opened.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that questions for comment detailed in this order are released for written comment to be filed by all interested parties no later than **5:00 p.m., October 30, 2015** pursuant to this order.

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 6th day
of October, 2015.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Tim Schram

Chairman

Gerald L. Vap

Crystal Knodes

ATTEST:

Jeffery L. Puley

Frank E. Landis

Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Gerald L. Vap