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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Transportation & Public Construction Division
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May 21, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 245-0464

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
MAY 21 2007
Part of
Public Record

RE: Finance Docket No. 35024, State of Washington, Department of Transportation –
Acquisition Exemption – Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad, Inc.

Finance Docket No. 35028, Washington & Idaho railway, Inc. – Operation
Exemption – Washington State Department of Transportation

Related Filings:

~~Finance Docket No. 35029, Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad Company –
Lease and Operation Exemption – Line of Washington State Department of
Transportation~~

~~Finance Docket No. 35030, US Rail Partners, Ltd. – Continuance in Control
Exemption – Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad Company~~

Dear Secretary Williams:

At the request of your office, please accept this letter clarifying WSDOT's petition to partially revoke the class exemptions in the above-referenced transactions and to expedite the effective date.

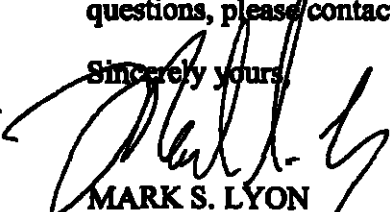
- (1) With regard to the CW Branch Line, WSDOT requests an expedited effective date of June 4, 2007, in Finance Docket No. 35024, and joins in the related petitions filed by the Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad Company (EWGR) (Finance Docket No. 35029) and its parent company, US Rail Partners, Ltd. (USRP) (Finance Docket No. 35030). As set forth in the EWGR/USRP filings, June 4, 2007, represents the earliest date which EWGR anticipates it can begin operations.
- (2) With regard to the P&L Branch Line, WSDOT requests an expedited effective date of June 1, 2007, in Finance Docket No. 35024 and Finance Docket No. 35028. This will allow the Washington and Idaho Railroad (WIR), which is presently operating on the P&L Branch as a contract operator for the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad, Inc., to continue operations without interruptions after June 1, 2007.

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Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
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As your office requested, I am serving this letter on your office by facsimile. If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 586-0641.

Sincerely yours,



MARK S. LYON
Assistant Attorney General

MSL:trg

cc: Mike Rowswell, WSDOT
William Sipple, Attorney for EWGR/USRP
Charles H. Montange, Attorney for WIR
Craig Richey, Attorney for PCC/WATCO
Parties on Declaration of Service