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Surface Transportation Board
Washington DC 20423-0001

Docket #: FD34936

I am glad that the railroad plan for segment one of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad project is being reviewed.

I believe that there is a substantially better route for the railroad to take other than the one presently proposed.

I have attached a map drawn by me of my proposed route compared to the NCBRR proposed route. My route is shorter resulting in less tract to build and less track for trains to have to transverse resulting in savings in fuel and wear on trains and tracks.

My proposed route is almost straight and takes out the twists and turns. It may require some fill on the East end.

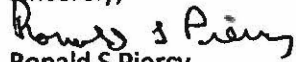
Wheeler road is a busy four lane road the proposed tracks cross wheeler in two places at a 45 degree angle. My proposed route stays North of Wheeler Road.

My proposed route will serve industrial customers on the north side of wheeler road. In my proposal the county would vacate Bonanza road. The tracks would be built on this roadbed. Going west the south wing of one building would have to be removed and the now vacant building that was Commercial Tire would have to be removed.

In this area agriculture is only possible with irrigation. This whole Columbia Basin Project was developed in the 50's by millions of federal dollars. Without the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project there would be no agriculture here and thus very little economy. The NCBRR proposed tracks are very disruptive to agriculture. In the eastern half of the United States there is sufficient rainfall to support agriculture. If you build a railroad through the middle of a field it is OK you can still farm on both sides of the railroad. By cutting across an irrigated field the irrigation systems are destroyed making it nearly impossible to continue farming the piece of property. If I was a farmer and the Railroad wanted to pass through one of my fields I would demand that the railroad purchase the whole property because I could no longer farm that property efficiently.

I own two access just north of the proposed railroad and road 4. I have nothing to gain or loose depending on where the tracks are built except that I travel the roads in the area. I don't like to see wheeler road crossed twice. I think there is a better way.

Sincerely,


Ronald S Piercy

cc: Port of Moses Lake
Representative Tom Dent
Congressman Dan Newhouse
Senator Judy Warnick

