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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Director Safety Division

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2007 DEC 27 A 8:28

AZ CORP COMMISSION
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To: The Commission

From: Brian H. Lehman, Supervisor of Railroad Safety

Date: December 17, 2007

Re: Possible closure of Sacaton St. RR-036391A-07-0520

On December 12, 2007, Safety Division Staff met with Casa Grande City Manager, Jim Thompson and his staff. The meeting was held to address Mr. Thompson's concerns regarding the possible closure of the Sacaton Street at-grade crossing in Casa Grande. In a December 6, 2007 letter to the Commission, Mr. Thompson states at a recent meeting with Union Pacific, a UP representative told him that the ACC was recommending closure of the Sacaton Street railroad crossing.

First of all, I would like to inform the Commission that Rail Safety did not tell the Union Pacific that we were going to recommend the closure of the crossing. In a 'hallway' conversation with UP, we did say that we were in the process of reviewing a UP application that included Sacaton St. along with Hermossila St, Florence St. and Trezell Road in Casa Grande. Staff did state that due to the accident history at Sacaton St. and the close proximity of Sacaton to Florence St. (.1 mile) it would be considered a candidate for closure. At the time Staff made that statement, we were in the process of setting up a meeting with the City of Casa Grande to learn more about the City's future development in the vicinity of the crossing and what effect closing the crossing might have on their plans. Staff also needed to know how the City would react to our safety concerns at the crossing and if alternative safety measures could be implemented rather than closure. However, we did not have a chance to meet with City officials, before Union Pacific's comments.

At the meeting with Casa Grande officials, we learned that the City is against the closure of Sacaton St. because of several reasons. They informed us that approximately .2 of a mile south of the crossing on what is now vacant land a development is planned which will include a Pepsi plant. They cited the need to keep Sacaton St. open in order to have a direct route in and out of the development. Another concern of the City is the ability of emergency responders to access the town south of the railroad tracks during UP switching operations, which frequently block the adjacent crossings at Florence and Hermosilla. Mr. Thompson stated that the City intends on keeping the crossing open until their long range corridor plan is implemented, which includes building emergency services south of the railroad tracks.

Arizona Corporation Commission

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BRIAN C. MCNEIL
Executive Director

DAVID RABER
Director, Safety Division

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

We have requested copies of the City's aforementioned corridor plan, so that we can determine what effect closing Sacaton St. might have on the City's future plans. Additionally, we will keep an active dialogue with City officials to determine what safety alternatives could be implemented at Sacaton St.

BHL