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Ltr to railroad

WSDOT RAIL OFFICE

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I question building the rail line south of Wheeler Rd. This would mean crossing wheeler road to get to the northern portion of the route. Wheeler Road is a busy road. I can see an east west route 1/4 of a mile north of Wheeler Road to connect to existing tracks in Wheeler.

The proposed route south of Wheeler cuts across developed farm land. This is also irrigated farm land. If it was not irrigated farm land it wouldn't be so much of a problem. Each farm unit is developed to irrigate as a unit with the water delivered to the high point of that unit by a canal system. Rill irrigated farm land is developed in a certain way so that gravity is used to cause the water to flow through the ditches to the furrows and down the furrows to irrigate the crops. You can't just cut a 50 foot swath across a developed irrigated farm unit without causing major problems with the way these fields have been leveled and graded so that they can be irrigated.

The proposed rail line south of Wheeler Road does not follow established land boundaries.

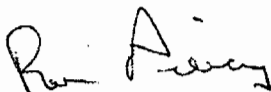
By building the rail line 1/4 mile north of Wheeler road the railroad would follow established property lines between farm units. There is presently an industrial area north of wheeler road and west of L road. There is also another industrial development taking place west of this established area. This new industrial development extends from Wheeler Road north 1/4 mile. There are also industrial developments north of Wheeler Road and west of Wheeler. Building the railroad North of Wheeler Road would make it more accessible to potential industrial users.

Beginning at "L" Road 1/4 mile north of Wheeler Road and going west is a gravel road that could be vacated for a railroad. To extend this line west would require going through this developed industrial area. This area is a new industrial area under development now. Now would be a good time to obtain a right of way across the north edge of this property before buildings are built and other infrastructure is developed.

Beginning at L road 1/4 mile north of Wheeler road and going east is an established property line of 1/2 mile. This means separately developed farms on the North and south of this line. From here it is only 1 more mile to connect to an existing rail line.

My proposed route avoids a crossing of busy Wheeler Road. It is not disruptive to agriculture. It serves an industrial area and it is shorter. Whole parcels of farm ground would become impossible to irrigate and here no irrigation means no crops.

Best Regards,



Ron Piercy, Owner  
Rainbow Flying Service  
Moses Lake Municipal Airport