



## ***Fire District #1 - Johnson County, Kansas***

***490 New Century Parkway***

***New Century, KS 66031***

***Phone: 913-782-3258 Fax: 913-782-5709***

September 25, 2007

David Dillner  
City Administrator  
City of Edgerton Kansas

Dear David

Thank you for this opportunity to express the concerns and/or issues of Fire District #1 pertaining to the BNSF Intermodal Facility. Our concerns center around the public safety and response issues that could result from the increased train and truck traffic that will come with this facility.

While it has been said that a new interchange would be put in south of this facility on I-35, we do not have a clear picture of when that interchange would be constructed and/or open for use. It is assumed on our part based on observation of past interchange construction that this interchange will take several years to just to get funded and then be pushed back years due to state funding issues and then once it is finally fully funded take another couple of years to actually get built.

So, we are greatly concerned that we could be looking at 10 years or more where we have a large amount of truck traffic in area's that were not designed to move that volume of traffic and as a result have far more delays in our responses to emergencies along with an increase in the number of injury accidents we respond to as a result of the increased truck traffic. It is also very likely that the increase in injury accidents that we would be called to respond on are far more severe in nature simply due to the likelihood that the accident would involve a heavy truck.

Another concern we have is that trains will be blocking the intersections in Edgerton and causing delays in our responses to emergencies in that area. We have heard that there will not be additional train traffic due to the Intermodal Facility, but again it is assumed on our part that even with the same amount of train traffic, this will create additional intersection blockage because the trains that do come through Edgerton will be moving much slower than in the past because they will either be slowing down to enter the Intermodal site or slowly accelerating as they leave the site. If both intersection are blocked by trains in Edgerton and we have an emergency call on the east side of the tracks, we are then looking at a 5 mile response to get to an emergency call that was 4 blocks away from our station. Either that or we have to do a tandem response to calls in that area and the next closest unit is still 7 miles away.

While the City of Gardner is not our primary response area we do respond to calls in Gardner through an auto-aid agreement and mutual aid agreement and assume that the same conditions and issues we anticipate will exist in Edgerton will also exist in Gardner

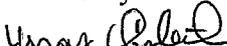
due to the increase intersection blockage by trains and the increased truck traffic. We also anticipate that until the I-35 interchange is built response times through Gardner to other parts of our District will be impacted by the increased truck traffic in and around Gardner, especially in the Waverly Rd and 56 Hwy area when all of the 15 and 16 year old drivers are getting out of school.

Another concern is that while it is anticipated that the Intermodal Facility will eventually be annexed into the City of Gardner, it is still currently within Fire District # 1's boundaries and we have many questions and concerns relating to water supply issues at the site as well as on site hazardous materials handling capabilities. Even after this site is annexed by the City of Gardner, it is anticipated by Fire District # 1 that we will still be asked to assist in responses to this site by the City of Gardner per our current auto-aid and mutual-aid agreements, yet we have not been included in any of the planning meetings that discussed these issues.

Given these concerns, it would be our hope that consideration could be given to construction of an underpass or overpass or elevated tracks in Edgerton to alleviated intersection blockage there and that full operation at the Intermodal site be curtailed or regulated until an interchange is built at I-35 to keep most of the truck traffic separate from daily local residential traffic. Likewise, we feel it is important that we be included in any future planning meetings that take place concerning on site water supply requirements and haz-mat issues as well as any other fire code requirements or issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns and if you need any additional information or wish to discuss this further please feel free to call.

Sincerely

  
Max Sielert, Chief

Fire District # 1 – Johnson County, KS