

RESOLUTION OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE MATTER OF OPERATION OF REMOTE CONTROL LOCOMOTIVES BY RAILROADS WITHIN THE COUNTY LIMITS OF EL PASO, COUNTY

WHEREAS:

A significant amount of rail cargo traveling through and moving within El Paso County, Texas consists of petrochemicals and other hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS:

The United States Government has issued a safety alert against vandalism and terrorist threats against railroads; and

WHEREAS:

Operation of a railroad is traditionally conducted with the use of locomotives manned by individuals who are rigorously certified and qualified by the standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); and

WHEREAS:

Railroads have requested from the Federal Railroad Administration and been granted authority to operate unmanned locomotives; and

WHEREAS:

These remote controlled locomotives will be operated by railroads in El Paso County, Texas; and

WHEREAS:

The FRA has issued ““guidelines”” and not regulations to provide for the implementation of these operations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that El Paso County, Texas requests that in the interest of the safety of the citizens of El Paso County that the FRA develop comprehensive regulations for the use of remote controlled locomotives, and that those regulations ensure the highest level of skill and qualification of persons operating remote controlled locomotives.

It is hereby ORDERED that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of Commissioners Court this ___ day of June 2004.

Dolores Briones, County Judge
Charles L. Scruggs, Precinct One
Betti Flores, Precinct Two
Miguel A. Teran, Precinct Three
Daniel R. Haggerty, Precinct Four